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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2004

50¢

Militant leader threatens to kill Iraqi prime minister

Allawi dismisses warning, says he will confront threats Page 3



PHOTO OF 1ST LT. HEATHER FAUVELL AND
CAPT. TOM FAUVELL BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

Marriage *in a* war zone

Spouses find they're not
always able to act like a
couple in love on the
battlefield, but they say being
together makes them stronger

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Patients' rights: Leading Republicans said Tuesday that Congress is unlikely to pass patient rights legislation this year, despite lawmakers' pledges to revive it following a Supreme Court ruling limiting lawsuits against HMOs.

Some Democrats said the issue could be potent in the presidential campaign. However, the chances that the Republican-led House will take up a national patients' protection bill this year are "zero," said Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

Capitol plane scare: Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher's plane put itself in danger of being shot down when it touched off a security scare before Ronald Reagan ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol, an aide said Tuesday.

Fighter jets that were scrambled first would have buzzed the governor's turbo prop to force it to land, Chief of Staff Daniel Groves said at a news conference. Failing that, the plane could have been shot down.

Fletcher's plane, carrying the governor to Ronald Reagan's funeral, flew into restricted air space around the Capitol on June 9.

Kevorkian case: A federal appeals court has rejected an appeal for a new trial for assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian, who has been behind bars since 1999.

Kevorkian plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court but he did not get a fair trial, said his attorney, Mayer Morganroth.

Tractor on National Mall: A tobacco farmer dubbed "Tractor Man" was sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison in connection with a March 2003 incident that brought traffic in the nation's capital to a standstill.

Dwight Ware Watson, 51, of Whitakers, N.C., was handed the prison time for his conviction on charges of making a false threat to detonate explosives, and destruction of federal property.

On March 17, 2003, Watson drove his tractor into a shallow pool just west of the Washington Monument. For the next 47 hours he sat there, claiming to have "organophosphate bombs" in a metal box attached to a flatted trailer that he towed to the scene.



Dwight Ware Watson waves an American flag from a tractor he drove into a pond near the Washington Monument on March 17, 2003.



Jordan terrorism plot: A military police officer escorts one of two vans carrying 10 convicted militants entering Jordan's military court in Amman on Wednesday. The court upheld its guilty verdict for 10 militants convicted in a foiled terror conspiracy targeting Americans and Israelis living in Jordan during millennium celebrations. The verdict came a year after the Appeals Court asked military judges to re-examine their decision issued in September 2000 on the basis that the terror conspiracy may have been dismissed under a general amnesty issued by Jordan's King Abdullah II in March 1999.

Business

Mutual fund scandal: Addressing an industry scandal, federal regulators are moving to decree that mutual fund boards have chairmen who are independent from the companies managing the funds.

The industry's trade group and several big-name fund companies fiercely oppose the far-reaching proposal and have been lobbying the Securities and Exchange Commission, which narrowly favors the requirement, against adopting it.

The five-member SEC was scheduled to vote on the proposal at a public meeting Wednesday, the latest in a monthlong series of changes to fund operations aimed at bolstering investor confidence.

World

Actress' beating death: A French rock star convicted of manslaughter in the beating death of his actress girlfriend has dropped plans to appeal, lawyers said Tuesday.

Both Bertrand Cantat and the family of his late girlfriend, French actress Marie Trintignant, withdrew their separate appeals in Lithuania, where she died, their lawyers said.

Cantat, the lead singer of one of France's most popular bands, Noir Desir (Black Desire), was convicted in March of beating Trintignant to death in a Vilnius hotel room in July 2003.

EU president: With two summits down and one yet to go in the space of a week, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern is not resuming the hunt for a new European Commission president until next week, officials said Wednesday.

EU leaders failed last week to reach a consensus on a replacement for Italy's Romano Prodi, whose term expires in October.

Ahern, who is heading the search, said he hoped to find a suitable candidate before the end of the month, when Ireland turns over the rotating EU leadership role to the Netherlands.

BBC reporting scandal: The British

Broadcasting Corp. said Wednesday it is adopting new journalism guidelines in response to strong criticism of its reporting standards from a judicial inquiry.

The broadcaster will immediately impose stricter rules on live reports, the use of anonymous sources and note taking, based on the recommendations of an internal review, BBC director Mark Thompson said.

These issues were raised by a May 2003 report from former BBC radio reporter Andrew Gilligan, who quoted an anonymous source as saying Prime Minister Tony Blair's administration had "sexed up" evidence on Iraqi weapons to justify war.

Lord Hutton, the senior appeals judge who led the investigation, rejected the report and harshly criticized the BBC for slack reporting checks, throwing the broadcaster into one of the biggest crises in its 80-year history.

Satellite navigation: The European Union and the United States struck a deal to make the EU's planned satellite navigation system compatible with the existing U.S. Global Positioning System, ending a trans-Atlantic row, officials said Wednesday.

EU Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio told reporters that she and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell will sign the agreement Saturday at the U.S.-EU summit at Dromoland Castle in Ireland.

The American GPS and the European system, dubbed Galileo, "are to become the de facto standard," de Palacio said.

Russia attack: A nighttime attack this week in the Russian republic of Ingushetia by militants near the border of war-ravaged Chechnya killed 92 people and wounded 125, a regional government official said Wednesday.

Among the dead were 67 members of law enforcement agencies, said the official, Magomed Ziyadimov.

About 1,000 militants had taken part in the attacks late Monday night, Ziyadimov said, quoting the Ingush Interior Ministry.

Ingush officials had previously said about 200 fighters had participated.

Stories and photos from wire services

Correction

A letter to the editor in Sunday's paper incorrectly identified the letter writer. The author of the letter "Differing opinions are good" was SirWayne Wardlow.

Comics, horoscope and advice
every day in Stars and Stripes

A-Zargawi threatens Iraq prime minister

U.S. kills 20 at hide-out in airstrikes

By ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim prime minister said Wednesday he was determined to confront the mastermind of bombings and beheadings who threatened to assassinate him, and the U.S. military said it killed 20 foreign fighters at the suspected terrorist's hideout.

A recording purportedly made by Jordanian-born terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to kill interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and fight the Americans "until Islamic rule is back on Earth."

The audio was found Wednesday on an Islamic Web site from the group that claimed responsibility for the beheading of American hostage Nicholas Berg and Kim Sun-il, a South Korean whose decapitated body was found Tuesday between Baghdad and Fallujah.

After the slaying, U.S. forces launched an airstrike on what the Americans said was an al-Zarqawi hide-out in Fallujah. A senior coalition military official said 20 foreign fighters and terrorists were believed to have been

See related story on Page 11

killed in the Tuesday night strike. The official briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Dr. Loai Ali Zeidan at Fallujah Hospital put the death toll at three with nine wounded. It was the second U.S. airstrike on Fallujah since Saturday.

In both cases, we believe we hit significant numbers of al-Zarqawi lieutenants and al-Zarqawi fighters," said another official, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt. The airstrikes also destroyed large ammunition stores, Kimmitt, coalition deputy operations chief, said Wednesday in an interview with Associated Press Television News.

In the audiotape, the speaker thought to be al-Zarqawi told Allawi that "we will continue the game with you until the end."

The speaker said "we will not get bored" until "we make you drink from the same glass" as Iz-zadine Saleem, the Iraqi Governing Council president killed last month in a car-bombing claimed by al-Zarqawi's group.

"We will carry on our jihad against the Western infidel and the Arab apostate until Islamic rule is back on Earth," the voice said.

An official with Allawi's office disseminated the threat, saying it would not derail the transfer of sovereignty next week.



A young Iraqi man looks at the destruction Wednesday in a parking lot that was hit in overnight airstrikes by the U.S. military in Fallujah, Iraq. On Tuesday night, the United States launched an airstrike on a safe house used by followers of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

President Bush called Allawi to "reiterate his commitment to the Iraqi people," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

During the call, which was scheduled before the al-Zarqawi statement, Allawi raised the topic of the assassination threat, McClellan said.

McClellan did not provide Bush's response but said Allawi "is determined to confront these terrorist threats."

South Koreans reacted with sorrow and anger to Kim's beheading Wednesday, with President Roh Moo-hyun calling it a "crime against humanity."

Kim's body was found two days after he appeared on a videotape broadcast by Al-Jazeera television, pleading "I don't want to die," and begging his government to pull its soldiers out of Iraq.

South Korea refused and said it would go ahead with plans to send another 3,000 forces here by August, which will make it the third-largest troop contributor after the United States and Britain.

"When we think of his desperate appeals for life, our hearts are wrenched with grief," Roh said Wednesday in a national address. Elsewhere, a roadside bomb exploded near Baghdad's Kindi Hos-

pital on Wednesday, killing a policeman who was handling the bomb and a mother and her child who were riding in a taxi, Iraqi police said. Another man, his shirt off, was seen being led away in handcuffs.

In Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 60 miles west of Baghdad, gunmen killed two policemen and wounded a third in a drive-by shooting, witnesses said.

A roadside bomb also exploded as an Iraqi National Guard patrol passed in the northern city of Mosul, killing one Iraqi soldier and wounding four others, the U.S. military said.

The beheading of Kim, 33, who worked for a South Korean company providing supplies to U.S. forces, stunned South Korea and prompted Seoul to order all nonessential civilians to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

Other developments: ■ Iraqi engineers said they had resumed pumping crude oil through an export pipeline between northern Iraq and Turkey that was attacked last month. Officials with the State Oil Marketing Organization said they were unaware the pipeline was back up.

■ Top lawmakers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr rejected an invitation to join a national conference that will select a council to advise Iraq's interim government.

■ NATO allies at a summit in Turkey this weekend will consider a request from Allawi for training and other technical assistance that troops, an alliance spokesman said.

House OKs \$417B bill for defense spending

By PAULINE JELINEK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a \$417 billion defense spending bill that includes an initial \$25 billion for U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus billions of dollars for major weapons systems.

The Senate was debating its defense bill at press time.

The House measure also has money for the 3.5 percent military pay raise that President Bush requested and increases Basic Allowance for Housing, eliminating servicemembers' average out-of-pocket housing expenses from 3.5 percent to zero in fiscal year 2005.

In May, both houses' Armed Services Committees agreed to the 3.5 percent figure.

The 403-17 vote underscored an election-year bipartisan consensus behind military spending that wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have requested.

If anything, Democrats think Bush has accounted too little for operations in the two countries in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 and predict the \$25 billion he requested for the latter months of this year will prove at least \$50 billion too low.

"No doubt, after the election the public will be told what the facts are on the installment plan" about Iraq spending, said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis. Obey voted for the bill.

While Bush wanted to decide exactly how his requested \$25 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan would be spent, the House limited his control to \$1 billion of the money. The rest was assigned to 22 specific accounts, such as \$674 million for research into efforts to provide armor for Humvee vehicles.

Senators on Wednesday debated missile defense costs, additional U.S. troops for Colombia's drug war, and whether the Bush administration should release more information on the Iraq campaign, as they attempted to finish a defense spending bill for the coming year.

But there were more than 30 amendments to the massive Pentagon authorization bill for fiscal 2005.

One amendment that passed was from Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., that would provide \$5 million for research into efforts to prevent and treat leishmaniasis, a skin disease that has stricken 600 troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Associated Press Writer Alan Fram and Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report.

U.S. drops resolution to protect peacekeepers

By EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Facing strong opposition, the United States announced Wednesday it was dropping a resolution seeking a new exemption for American peacekeepers from international prosecution for war crimes.

U.S. deputy ambassador James Cunningham made the announcement after a U.S. compromise that would limit the exemption to one final year failed to win support from key Security Council opponents.

Several council members said the abuse of Iraqi detainees by U.S. soldiers and Secretary-General Kofi Annan's opposition to renewing the exemption for a third year were factors in their refusal to back the compromise.

The current one-year exemption expires on June 30.

President Bush's administration argues that the International Criminal Court — which started operating last year — could be used for frivolous or politically motivated prosecutions of American troops.

The 94 countries that have ratified the 1998 Rome Treaty establishing the court maintain it contains enough safeguards to prevent frivolous prosecutions and insist that nobody should be exempt.

Cunningham stressed that the United States is "the largest contributor to global security and has special well-known interests in protecting our forces and our officials."

"We believe that our draft and its predecessors fairly meet the concerns of all. Not all council members agree, however, and the United States has decided not to proceed further with consideration and action on the draft at this time in order to avoid a prolonged and divisive debate," he said after a closed council meeting.

When the court was established nearly two years ago, the United States threatened to end its involvement in far-flung peacekeeping operations established or authorized by the United Nations if it didn't get an exemption for American peacekeepers.

Cunningham refused to say what the United States would do when the next U.N. peacekeeping operation comes up for renewal in the Security Council.

In his statement, he said that "in the absence of a new resolution, the United States will need to take into account the risk of ICC (International Criminal Court) review when determining contributions to U.N. authorized or established operations."

Before the council meeting, Spain and China said they would abstain if the resolution was put to a vote and Philippines Ambassador Lauro Boja, the current council president, said he doubted that the United States had the minimum nine "yes" votes needed to adopt it.

Last week, Annan — in a rare intervention — urged the council not to renew the U.S. exemption, citing the Iraqi prisoner abuse and raising "serious doubts" about the legality of an exemption.

Serving, fighting and married in a war zone

Two military couples say being together for Iraq duty makes marriage stronger

By TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

CAMP BLACK JACK, Iraq

In the modern Army, more and more husbands and wives are serving, and fighting, together.

Is it easier being together in a war zone than leaving spouses behind for a one-year deployment? That's too simplistic, said two couples.

Yes, they're together, but a marriage in a war zone is basically suspended. No overt affection. No privacy.

Certainly no intimacy.

Experiencing what the war zone is really like, and what a spouse is doing in it, heightens some anxieties while alleviating others.

About 10 percent of the people in the active-duty Army were married to another soldier during fiscal 2002-2003, or about 50,000 out of 494,000, said Cathy Gramling, an Army spokeswoman in Washington. Between 2000 and 2001, the number of dual Army families increased to 11 percent from six percent, according to the Army Almanac.

The Randolphs

April 30 was the best day of Spc. Cornelius Randolph's young life. His wife, Spc. Ayesha Randolph, joined him at Camp Black Jack, near Baghdad International Airport, after surviving two months at Camp Cooke in Taj.

At the time, Camp Cooke was getting

mortared every day. Four Arkansas National Guard soldiers were killed in an April 24 attack.

Things were so bad "they didn't have ice because they had to use it to keep the bodies," Cornelius Randolph said.

Suddenly, the two 1st Cavalry Division soldiers were together when her unit, 27th Main Support Battalion, transferred to Black Jack. "It was just a big relief to know she's here. That I'm able to see her and know she's all right," Cornelius Randolph said.

Living at Black Jack with only sporadic rocket and mortar attacks "is 200 times better" than Taji, Ayesha Randolph says.

Cornelius Randolph, 19, of Lynchburg, Va., is a M240B gunner with 1st Platoon, Troop D scouts, part of the 1st Cav's 9th Cavalry Regiment. Ayesha Randolph, 20, of Dallas, is a supply soldier with 27th Forward Support Battalion.

His wife's arrival completed his world, Cornelius Randolph said.

"My wife, myself and my boys, right here!"

Cornelius Randolph is conscious of not flaunting their relationship in front of his brothers in arms, who are desperately missing their wives. That said, he never thought he'd be in a place where people could tell him what he could and couldn't do with his own wife.

Brought together by the Army, the Randolphs say they are a case of opposites attracting. They laugh about not liking each other much when they met two years ago at a 1st Cav dining facility at Fort Hood, Texas.

"I'm more country, she's more southern," Cornelius Randolph said.

He draws a direct link between his job and his wife.

"I've got someone right here to protect, someone I love. I'm a little more motivated to catch these [bad guys]," Cornelius Randolph said.

Out in small teams at night, hunting down the enemy, "he has an extra dangerous job," Ayesha Randolph said. But danger doesn't respect gender; she risked her life every time she visited him.

On one trip, a woman dropped a bomb-laden purse off an overpass, Ayesha Randolph said. On another, two roadside bombs exploded, damaging an M-113 personnel carrier and a civilian car.

During her return trips, all he could think about was, "Did she make it back?" Cornelius Randolph said.

All things considered, being at war together is making their marriage stronger, the couple said. They don't waste time arguing, Cornelius Randolph said.

After all, the little tests they throw at you pale in comparison to coping with being in a war zone, he said.

"If we can make it through this journey, we should be able to make it through life," he said.



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

First Lt. Heather Favell and Capt. Tom Favell say being married in a war zone means catching a glimpse of a person a little different than the one they thought they knew all these years. They say they savor the luck of being together.

The Favells

Tom and Heather Favell grew up together. They've known each other since the fourth or fifth grade, when their families lived a block apart in their central Long Island, N.Y., suburb.

They even went to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point together.

Now, Capt. Tom Favell, 26, 2nd Brigade utility project manager, and 1st Lt. Heather Favell, 25, engineer brigade adjutant, are at war together, assigned to the 1st Cav.

For the Favells, being married in a war zone means catching an occasional glimpse of a person a little different than the one they thought they knew all these years.

Heather Favell sees a man energized by a daunting mission — who goes from a relaxed, family-oriented man to a motivated, hard-charging guy.

Tom Favell likes seeing the ultra-organized officer to whom superiors go for advice.

Tom Favell's job is especially hazardous — he's outside the wire every day, working on utility projects around northwest Baghdad.

Sometime during the last five months, he said he realized it's not about enhancing his officer efficiency report, but about making a difference.

"It tugs at your heart strings, drives you

to do a better job," he said.

Heather Favell's attitude toward seeing her husband go out on missions is nonchalant.

"I don't think anything he tells me is going to shock me," she said. "He comes back one day after being shot at and tells me what happened ... and I said, 'Oh, really? Well, I'm glad you're back.'"

Part of it is that she is a tough, gregarious personality who takes pride in staying up-tempo. She's the one who went to air-assault school.

"I'm the queasy one," Tom Favell said.

With their Army-mandated platonic relationship, "it's kind of like being teenagers again ... a bunch of friends hanging out," Heather Favell said. "I laugh all the time."

Laughing "keeps us sane," she said.

The Favells said they talk often about the future, about family and travel.

"We crave the future normalcy of life," Heather said.

But being in Iraq together is not that bad.

For the moment, they're savoring their luck of being together.

"We have it better than we expected to have it," Heather Favell said. "We try to keep our perspective."



Spc. Ayesha Randolph and Spc. Cornelius Randolph are married and are serving in Iraq. The two 1st Cavalry Division soldiers were able to be closer to each other when her unit transferred to Camp Black Jack near Baghdad.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mta.estripes.osd.mil

Lawyer's resignation delays hearing in Iraq abuse case

By ESTES THOMPSON

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, North Carolina — A three-week delay in the military court hearing of a soldier seen in some of the most notorious abuse photos from an Iraqi prison was caused by the resignation of another of her lawyers.



England

Rosemary Zapor said Tuesday in an e-mail that she left Pfc. Lynndie England's defense team Monday because of unspecified health problems suffered by her husband.

The hearing, scheduled to begin Tuesday at Fort Bragg, was postponed Monday to July 12, initially without explanation. The Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a grand jury proceeding, will determine if a court-martial is held.

Last month, lawyer Giorgio Ra-Shadd left England's defense team by mutual agreement with her family after it was revealed he faces a September trial in Colorado that could result in his disbarment.

The lawyers in the case are all volunteers.

England, an Army reservist from West Virginia, was photographed holding a naked Iraqi prisoner by a leash and smiling and giving the thumbs-up in other pictures taken at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

England's lawyers are expect-

ed to argue that the 21-year-old only posed in the photos on specific orders from people higher-up in the chain of command.

England faces 13 counts, including three of assaulting detainees. If convicted on all counts, she faces a dishonorable discharge and up to 15½ years in prison.

England is one of six soldiers who still face charges in the scandal; Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits has already pleaded guilty and been sentenced to a year in prison.

In an interview broadcast by NBC television, England said if she had it to do all over she would "go back in time and not join the Army."

"I just want to go home, get it over with," she said.

England also said she does not believe she should go to jail: "I think that none of the seven of us should."

Finding qualified interpreter difficult

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A U.S. military lawyer representing a terror suspect at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba said he hasn't met with his client for two months because of delays getting security clearance for an interpreter.

The attorney, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Philip Sundel, said Tuesday there are few qualified candidates, and that the approval process for his choice — a German woman fluent in Arabic — is moving at "a glacial pace."

"It's a disservice to justice, and it's clearly a disservice to our client," said Sundel, a lawyer for Ali Hamza Ahmed Sulayman al Bahlul.

Al Bahlul is charged with conspiracy to commit war crimes and could face life in prison if convicted by a tribunal. The United States says he was a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden and an al-Qaida propagandist who produced videos glorifying the killing of Americans.

Navy Lt. Susan McGarvey, a military spokeswoman, said officials have made it clear that the chances of approval are slim. She said Sundel should try to find a U.S. citizen.

"It is possible for a foreign national to qualify for a clearance. However, it's very rare," McGarvey said. "It's very unlikely that she would end up getting a clearance."

From The Associated Press

Constantly on alert



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Marine Staff Sgt. Jerome Stockwell, 29, of Milwaukee, Wis., and the 467th Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron mans the 50-caliber gun aboard a CH-53 helicopter on June 15 during a flight near the Iraq-Syria border.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 840 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 620 died as a result of hostile action and 220 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 38 deaths. Italy has reported 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 702 U.S. servicemen have died — 511 as a result of hostile action and 191 of non-hostile causes, according to the military as of Tuesday.

Since the March 2003 start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 5,271 U.S. servicemen

have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed Tuesday in an attack on their convoy near Balad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Gregory V. Pennington, 36, Glade Spring, Va., died Monday in Baghdad when his camp was attacked, assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Three Marines died Monday in an attack in Ramadi; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Deshon E. Orey, 24, of Hardin, Ky.

■ Marine Cpl. Tommy L. Parker Jr., 21, of Cleburne, Ark.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Pedro Contreras, 27, Harris, Texas.

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Hanau mourns GI killed in Iraq mortar attack

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — Two months into its deployment, the 127th Military Police Company lost its first soldier in combat last week.



Viet

The fallen soldier wasn't a cop on patrol in some tempestuous Iraqi town. And he wasn't killed while pulling guard duty in a volatile neighborhood.

No, Spc. Thai Viet was a mechanic who crawled under a Humvee to fix it and never got the chance to tighten the last bolt. On Friday, while Viet was on his back, Iraqi insurgents fired several mortar rounds at a base camp occupied by his company. One round landed near Viet, killing him.

"He was always doing his

duty," said Pfc. Andre Gonzales, a 23-year-old military policeman who knew Viet. "He never asked for much."

Perhaps that's because Viet didn't have much to begin with, having been born in a Vietnamese refugee camp somewhere in the Philippines. What he did have, Gonzales and others said, were parents determined to do whatever they had to do to give their six children a better life. Viet was third oldest.

Viet, whose family settled in California, "was a quiet professional," said 1st Sgt. Mark E. Porrett, the company's ranking non-commissioned officer. "He never wanted the limelight. It always found him."

Asked to explain, Porrett said Viet often found out taking or getting the toughest jobs — and then he would shine and get noticed, again.

Mechanics "are our guardian angels," Gonzales said outside the chapel after the service concluded, "because they keep our vehicles mission ready."



KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

First Sgt. Mark E. Porrett kneels and reflects on the loss of Spc. Thai Viet, whom he described as "a true patriot and warrior." Scores of soldiers from Hanau, Germany, paid tribute to Viet, a mechanic who died last week from injuries he sustained in a mortar attack near Baghdad.

That may not sound like a big deal, but in Iraq, lives count on a bit. Like an aircraft mechanic, Viet

and others in his profession take great pride in keeping "their" machines functioning as flawlessly

as they can.

"Every job matters," Chaplain (Capt.) Stanton Trotter said at the service.

The turnout at Viet's memorial service Wednesday showed he mattered a whole lot, too. The chapel on Fliegerhorst Casern was filled with MPs and members of the community, many standing shoulder-to-shoulder as Trotter, Gonzales and Spc. Randall Love spoke of Viet.

Viet, 22, was one of six mechanics sent to Iraq to support the 150-member contingent.

"Tell the stories [about Viet]," Trotter said. "His life doesn't have to completely end right now."

After the service, Gonzales spun a story or two about his friend. A popular one involved a huge veteran Viet used to sometimes walk around with.

"As far as I know," Gonzales said, "nobody knew what it was for. But he was the go-to guy. He was definitely held in high regard."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.strips.osd.mil.

NATO live-flying exercise

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Several Spangdahlem Air Base squadrons are taking part in NATO exercise Clean Hunter 2004 in the skies over western Europe, a news release said.

The live-flying exercise began June 12 and continues through Friday.

The 23rd Fighter Squadron is practicing suppression of enemy air defenses, surface attack tactics and offensive counter air missions.

Last week, the 22nd Fighter Squadron flew 24 sorties a day practicing the same tactics. Squadron members also helped plan the missions and provided aircrew life support.

In addition, 45 members of the 606th Air

Control Squadron conveyed to Schönewalde and Messietten, Germany, with mobile air control equipment to provide satellite communication links for the exercise's Combined Air Operations Center.

Headquarters Allied Air Forces North and air forces from Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States are taking part.

Mission Support Awards

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. Air Forces in Europe has announced the winners of the 2003 Mission Support Awards, a news release said.

They are:

■ Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year Award, base-level senior manager: Maj. Steven Johnson, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

■ Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year Award, unit level-personnel manager: Capt. Jessica Pinto, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

■ Air Force Education and Training Manager, Dr. Edwin C. Peterson Award (headquarters level/noncommissioned officer): Staff Sgt. Angenette Caballero, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

■ Civilian Personnel Officer (GS-13): Veronica E. Hinton, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

■ Intermediate Program Manager/Specialist (GS-12): Lisa Ames, Incirlik.

■ Senior Family Support Center/Family Readiness Office Individual: Master Sgt. William Stephenson, Incirlik.

■ Enlisted Professional Military Education Achievement Award, NCO Academy Instructor: Tech. Sgt. Sharon Forbes, Kapaun Air Station, Germany.

■ EPME Achievement Award, Enlisted PME Manager: Master Sgt. Lorna De La Cruz, Kapaun.

De La Cruz was also selected as the Chief Master Sergeant Annual EPME Award Winner and will be recognized at the Air Force honors banquet held in conjunction with the August 2004 Air Force Sergeant's Association International Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

In the Personnel Testing Achievement Awards, Category II (small), the USAF Mission Support Squadron from Stuttgart, Germany, was selected as the year's best.

From staff reports

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Petty Officer Hammond was one of nearly 60,000 military and civilian employees who completed a pledge card and giveaway entry form for a chance to win the first prize, a 2004 Volvo S60 2.5 T sports sedan.

She learned of her good fortune through a telephone call from a CFC-O official. "Is this a joke? Today is April Fools," Hammond asked. When she learned it was no joke, "She screamed for joy," says Greg Sassman, CFC-O European Director.



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You Made a World of Difference

IN THE WORLD

S. Americans set to take over Haiti peacekeeping job

BY ADAM RANEY

The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — South American countries are taking on a new role as the vanguard of a new U.N. stabilization force in Haiti, and Pvt. Hernan Veron knows the world will be watching.

The 21-year-old army radio operator is one of more than 600 Argentine troops waiting to ship out for Haiti as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission that will be dominated by South Americans, a new role for their militaries.

"Everybody will be watching to see we do the job right," Veron said during training in Buenos Aires.

The Argentines will work with Brazilian troops leading the force in Haiti. Paraguayans, Chileans and Uruguayans are also expected to take part, along with a smattering of troops and military police from China, Nepal and Rwanda.

Analysts say the large presence is part of South American leaders' efforts to take larger roles in U.N. and multilateral operations. It's also a bid to show less dependence on Washington in resolving regional crises, Argentine political analyst Rosendo Fraga said.

"These countries [are] assuming responsibility for Latin America without waiting for solutions that only come from the U.S.," he said.

The peacekeeping missions also give countries like Argentina and Chile a chance to boost their militaries' democratic credentials only years after authoritarian rule.

"Missions like this one offer these countries an opportunity to give the military a facelift. It shows that they can cooperate at an international level," Jennifer Leight of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs said.

Argentina was led by a right-wing military junta from 1976 until 1983 and Chile was led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet from September 1972 until 1990. A military dictatorship ran Brazil from 1964-1985.



Argentine army soldiers train in the outskirts of Buenos Aires on Wednesday. More than 600 Argentine troops are waiting to ship out for Haiti as part of a U.N. peacekeeping mission dominated by South Americans taking shape there.

The Brazilians will take formal command on Friday from a U.S.-led multinational force. Only a few Americans will stay on.

Veron and his fellow soldiers spent the past weeks at the Campo de Mayo base northwest of Buenos Aires conducting mock patrols and disarmament drills. Trying to disarm politically allied factions will be one of its main challenges.

The tumultuous Caribbean nation still is on edge nearly four months after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled as rebels overwhelmed several cities and threatened to attack the capital.

Veron and other Argentines have studied Haitian Creole and were issued cards with basic phrases.

The 3,600-strong U.S.-led force is ceding responsibility to a U.N. force, which is expected to grow to 6,700 peacekeepers and more than 1,000 international police.

Some Haitians have welcomed the idea of Latin Americans taking over. They say the South American countries' soccer prowess makes them instantly popular in a country where the sport is popular.

"Haitians love Argentines and Brazilians. These are the two teams they love in Haiti," said one Haitian housewife, Elsie Jules, 43.

British rail operator acts to block strike

The Associated Press

LONDON — A British rail operator launched legal action Wednesday in a bid to block a 24-hour strike by its workers next week.

Network Rail applied to the High Court for an injunction against the Rail Maritime and Transport union to halt the planned walkout, which is due begin at 6:30 p.m. on June 29.

The union called the strike after it failed to come to an agreement with Network Rail over a pay dispute. The 7,500 Network Rail workers are due to be joined in the industrial action by an equal number of workers on the capital's subway system, who are in a separate pay dispute with London Underground.

A combined strike would affect millions of commuters and travelers.

The court claim lodged Wednesday applies only to a rail strike, not to the London Underground.

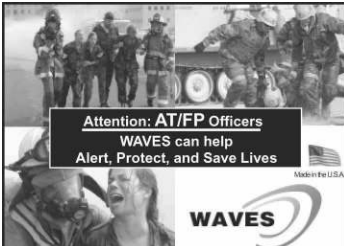
Network Rail claimed in its application to the court that the union had provided "inaccurate and deficient" about the strike vote by members.

It alleged that union members were listed as being based in locations which had closed or were being down, including a signal box that was shut down 25 years ago.

"We have taken this action to prevent passengers and freight customers from suffering the consequences of this unnecessary and potentially damaging strike," Network Rail said. "We have a duty to keep trains running."

The union said it would "vigorously defend" its balloting procedures and, in the case of a successful challenge by Network Rail, would hold another vote.

The legal challenge is expected to be heard by a judge in London within the next three days.



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IN THE STATES

White House backs away from war torture memo

White House releases mass of internal correspondence to show abuse not ordered

BY MATT KELLEY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government laid out its legal reasoning for denying terror war suspects the protections of international humanitarian law but immediately repudiated a key memo arguing that torture might be justified in the fight against al-Qaida.

The release Tuesday of hundreds of pages of internal memos by the White House was meant to blunt criticism that President Bush had laid the groundwork for the abuses of Iraqi prisoners by condoning torture. The president insisted Tuesday: "I have never ordered torture."

But critics said the developments left unresolved some questions about his administration's current guidelines for interrogating prisoners in Iraq and around the world. For example, a 2002 order signed by Bush says the president reserves the right to suspend the Geneva Conventions on treatment of prisoners of war at any time.

"These documents raise more questions than they answer," said Charles Schumer, a Democratic senator from New York. "The White House is better off coming clean and releasing all relevant and nonclassified documents."

The White House released memos from the U.S. Defense De-

partment detailing some of the harsh interrogation methods approved — and then rescinded — by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in 2002 and 2003. The administration continues to refuse to say what interrogation methods are approved now.

Six American soldiers face criminal charges for abusing and humiliating Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib complex near Baghdad. Another soldier pleaded guilty and received a one-year prison term.

The U.S. Justice Department has filed criminal assault charges against a contract CIA interrogator, accusing him of beating a prisoner in Afghanistan who later died.

An Aug. 1, 2002, Justice Department memo argues that torture — and even deliberate killing — of prisoners in the terror war could be justified as necessary to protect the United States. The memo from then-assistant attorney general Jay Bybee also offers a restricted definition of torture, saying only actions that cause severe pain akin to organ failure would be torture.

Bybee now is a justice on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Justice Department backed away from Bybee's memo Tuesday.

Senior department officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said the memo would be

rewritten because it contains advice that is too broad and irrelevant. The officials, who briefed several reporters in a widely publicized news conference, said department policy allowed them to demand anonymity.

The White House also released documents detailing some of the most harsh interrogation methods Rumsfeld approved for use on prisoners at the lockup at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Rumsfeld's November 2002 memo approved methods which apparently would violate Geneva Convention rules, including:

- Putting detainees in "stress positions," such as standing, for up to four hours.

- Removing prisoners' clothes.
- Intimidating detainees with dogs.

- Interrogating prisoners for 20 hours at a time.

Less than two months later, on Jan. 15, 2003, Rumsfeld rescinded approval for those methods without saying why. He appointed a Pentagon panel to recommend proper interrogation methods.

That panel reported to Rumsfeld in April 2003, and its recommendations included prohibiting the removal of clothes, which it said could be considered inhumane treatment under international law. Rumsfeld issued a new set of approved interrogation



President Bush



Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld

methods later that month, disallowing nakedness and requiring approval for four techniques: use of rewards or removal of privileges; verbally attacking or insulting the ego of a detainee; alternating friendly and unfriendly interrogators in a "good cop, bad cop" method; and isolation.

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson, Robert Burns and Scott Lintlaw contributed to this report.

Four more airlines gave data to government

BY LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More airlines than previously disclosed gave personal data on passengers to the government for testing a computerized background-check project, acting Transportation Security Administration chief David Stone said Wednesday.

Passenger data was obtained from at least two computerized reservation systems, Sabre and Galileo International, and from four more airlines than previously revealed: Delta, Continental Airlines, America West Airlines and Frontier Airlines, Stone said.

His testimony came during a confirmation hearing by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on his nomination as TSA administrator.

The data — known as passenger name records, or PNR — include credit card numbers, travel reservation information, address, telephone number and meal requests, which can indicate a passenger's religion or ethnicity.

In all but one case, the data was intended for testing an anti-terrorism project that would use personal information to assign threat levels to all airline passengers.

Privacy advocates, meanwhile, promptly called for a congressional investigation.

"There was a massive amount of passenger data secretly provided to the government, and in many cases, the disclosures also violated privacy assurances the airlines had given to their passengers," said David Sobel, general counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a privacy group.

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A spud Atkins would love

Florida growers to market low-carb potato next year

BY RON WORD
The Associated Press

SPUDS, Fla. — For dieters, potatoes have been scorned, rejected and castigated — the Rodney Dangerfield of vegetables, they get no respect.

Many weight-loss programs, including the Atkins and the South Beach diets, advocate meat and cheese over high-carbohydrate potatoes, pasta and bread.

Come January, carb-counters who love potatoes may find cause to rejoice a bit. Florida growers will be pitching a potato they hope will be a hot one — it claims one-third fewer carbs than the ordinary spud.

"Consumers are going to love the flavor and appearance of this potato and the fact that it has 30 percent fewer carbohydrates compared to a standard Russet baking potato," said Chad Hutchinson, an assistant professor of horticulture at University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

After five years of testing in the sandy soils near the heart of Florida's potato country, Hutchinson knew it tasted great, had a shorter growing cycle, was disease-resistant and able to handle Florida's extreme weather. He then learned about its lower-carb properties.

"That was just gravy," he said.

Independent research shows about 3½ ounces of the new potato contain about 13 grams of carbohydrate compared to around 19 grams in the same size serving of a Russet Burbank.



And still OK to cover in cheese and bacon bits: The new low-carb potato is about to arrive. "Consumers are going to love the flavor," said Chad Hutchinson, assistant professor with the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

The new baseball-size potato will be available in supermarkets and restaurants in January. There is no word on how much it will cost.

Linda McCashon, who represents the National Potato Promotion Board, which has launched a \$4.5 million campaign marketing the spud's nutritional value, said the board is pleased there are new varieties being developed.

She noted that an average potato contains only 100 calories, has no fat, is low in sodium and high in potassium, plus has some dietary fiber. It also has vitamins C and B-6.

EPA reports toxic pollution reverses trend, rises in '02

BY JOHN HEILPRIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Toxic chemical releases into the environment rose 5 percent in 2002, marking only the second such increase reported by the Environmental Protection Agency in nearly two decades, and the first since 1997.

Figures also show that Houston area refineries and petrochemical plants release three times more toxic air pollution than they report to the federal government.

Nationwide, some 4.79 billion pounds of toxic chemicals were released in 2002, the latest for which figures are available, not including releases from metal mining, the EPA reports. The agency stopped including that data because of a recent court decision.

The increase reversed a recent trend, and was a big turnaround from last year's report by EPA that chemical releases in 2001 had declined 13 percent from a year earlier.

Kimberly Terese Nelson, the EPA's chief information officer,

blamed the "extraordinarily large change" on the 1999 shutdown of BHP Copper Co.'s San Manuel plant in Tucson, Ariz., where 2,000 people worked. Dismantling a plant turns components and product into waste.

"If we were that one facility out, we would see a 3 percent decrease," Nelson said Tuesday of the releases of 650 chemicals by 24,379 facilities that EPA tracks.

EPA spokeswoman Cynthia Bergan said EPA's annual Toxics Release Inventory began under a 1986 law wasn't meant to be all-inclusive of all types of chemical releases. She called it "one of just several tools" for informing the public on that pollution.

EPA figures show 1997 was the only other year with an increase, 6 percent, in the several billion pounds of pollution allowed yearly into the air, water and ground in the United States.

Even so, a study by two environmental groups said EPA was underreporting the air pollution portion of releases of chemicals and emissions by 330 million pounds a year.

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OPINION

Post-handover Iraq counting on GIs' support

BY ROBERT B. KILLEBREW

The link between politics and war will be very apparent when the new transitional Iraqi government begins calling the shots on the streets of Baghdad. The current policy of Iraqi politics demands that the Iraqi leadership show its independence from the very occupier that protects its emerging government. This is both good and bad news for American forces in the country.

The good news is that Iraqi security forces will be taking more responsibility for policing Iraq — as they must, if Iraqis are ever to have any government at all. The bad news, though, is that American forces will now begin the slow, and occasionally frustrating, business of coordinating their operations with an ally — in this case, a weaker but more assertive ally — that, paradoxically, both needs American power and must show it is independent of it.

The transition is going to be tough for the soldiers and Marines on the ground, who will no longer have the freedom of action they exercised while the United States was an occupying power. Before, if they saw a target, they could try to hit it. Now, their actions are going to be more constrained by the need to clear operations with the host.

Many U.S. commanders and noncommissioned officers are veterans of negotiations with other armies — the American experience in Bosnia, Kosovo and elsewhere will pay off as soldiers on both sides in Iraq struggle to overcome language and cultural barriers to effective operations. Overcoming these barriers will be critical in the face of a rising Iraqi and foreign insurgency and as the burden of security begins shifting from

America to a legitimate Iraqi government. The mechanics of that shift on the ground will be delicate.

Initially, U.S. forces will retain considerable operational leeway but, as Iraqi authority grows, joint Iraqi-American civil and military planning will increasingly become the order of the day, and U.S. troops will slip more and more into training, support and backup roles for the Iraqi army and police.

But since the terrorists' primary goal is to sever the relationship between the Americans and the nascent Iraqi government, we can expect stepped-up attacks on U.S. forces after June 30.

How will U.S. troops respond? Despite the new constraints under which they will operate, the troops will retain the right to respond when attacked without asking anyone's permission. Follow-up operations to track down terrorist cells, corner insurgents in their holes and dig them out will be joint U.S.-Iraqi undertakings, particularly in urban areas. Managing the mix of forces and responses will take political and military savvy on both sides of the alliance.

For American commanders, "support" and "backup" pose some peculiar challenges. U.S. military doctrine emphasizes aggressive, decisive operations — waiting to be hit is not the American style. So the transition to support and defensive operations, even as the terrorists escalate their attacks, will be a major change.

There will be enough fighting in Iraq for the foreseeable future to keep the troops from going slack, but new techniques and tactics for sharing the combat load will have to be developed — in fact, are probably being developed now — and new ways to co-



ordinate political and military efforts at the local and national levels will have to be worked out. It's not going to be easy — but then, nothing has been in Iraq.

If the new Iraqi army makes a decent showing and local security forces stick to their guns, American troops on the ground will undertake more operations in coordination with both groups and fewer that involve purely U.S. patrols and sweeps. This is as it should be.

As Iraqi forces become more expert, American forces will be less visible in populated areas, and American garrisons may be

relocated farther away from cities.

The U.S. forces will provide backup for the Iraqi forces. They'll train with, support and, on occasion, fight alongside them — but within a political context that will seek to minimize the Americans' contributions. Assuming the Iraqis can handle the job, the shifting U.S. emphasis from independent offensive operations to support of the new nation's own armed forces is good news for both America and for Iraq.

Robert Killebrew, a retired U.S. Army colonel who served in infantry and special forces units, now writes and speaks on defense issues. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Moore's new film takes liberties with a hot topic

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scripts Howard

Michael Moore, once a scruffy maker of cheap, funny, satirical documentaries, now puffs himself with the plaudits of the metrosexuals of Hollywood and Cannes. Having portrayed Americans as a bunch of glib, lunatics ("Bowling for Columbine"), he's now shooting at President Bush and the war in Iraq with "Fahrenheit 9/11," which opens Friday in the States.

Moore, famous for his puerile diatribe at the 2003 Academy Awards ("we live in the time where we have fictitious election results that elect a fictitious president"), has higher ambitions. According to Philip Shenon of The New York Times, Moore wants his new movie to be remembered as the first big-audience election-year film that helped ensure a president."

Miramax Films, which is releasing the movie, "has hired a team of hardened Democratic apparatchiks," writes the Guardian newspaper of Britain, "including Hillary Clinton's former campaign press secretary, Howard Wolfson, top Al Gore adviser Michael Feldman and Clinton White House advisers Mark Fabiani and Chris Lehane," to promote the film and defend it.

"We want the word out," Moore says. "Any attempts to libel me will be met by force." Shenon notes that Moore makes this claim "not an ounce of humor in his familiar voice." Mr. Tough Guy, bailing up his fists. He dishes it out, but can he take it?

Now, let me stipulate that I have not seen this movie. I wasn't invited to the screenings, but I have read the advance articles, and I watched the trailer online.

The story line is no surprise. Moore's worldview is predictably Marxian and con-

spiratorial. Money and corporate power are behind everything. Republicans — especially that numbskull graduate of Yale and Harvard in the White House — are callous, corrupt and stupid. Secret plots abound.

For example, Moore spends several minutes in the film documenting ties between the president and what Shenon describes as an American "financial adviser to a prominent member of the bin Laden family." The adviser even served with Bush in the Air National Guard in the early 1970s.

But don't expect journalism. This is "not a network news report," another member of the Moore team, Dev Chatillon, the former general counsel to the New Yorker magazine, says. This is opinion or, more precisely, oh-so-stylish propaganda. What's the harm? Plenty. The United States is engaged in a war with a dangerous enemy that killed

3,000 people in New York and would like to kill another 3 million — by taking out an entire city with a nuclear or biological device. The cheering crowds in Cannes may not believe it, but the threat to civilization posed by the terrorists is dead-serious.

By the time George W. Bush took office, terrorists had already taken several shots at us. Our pitiful response to these outrages encouraged the attack of 9/11.

Since then, the United States has liberated 50 million people in two countries, captured Saddam Hussein, disrupted the al-Qaida network, and, contrary to the expectation of the vast majority of Americans, there has not been another terrorist attack on our soil.

Certainly, there have been mistakes. The sad truth, however, is that the left is so intellectually bankrupt at this point that the buffoonery of Moore is about all they've got. So they're promoting it like crazy.

Moore's movie draws its title from Ray Bradbury's classic 1953 novel "Fahrenheit 451" about a brutal, futuristic society in which books are banned and burned.

Bradbury is angry that Moore has appropriated his title and wants the movie renamed. But perhaps it's appropriate that the inspiration was a story about book-burning. The introspection, contemplation, subtlety, adult seriousness and civil reason that associate with good books are the qualities that are ritually immolated by Moore in his movies.

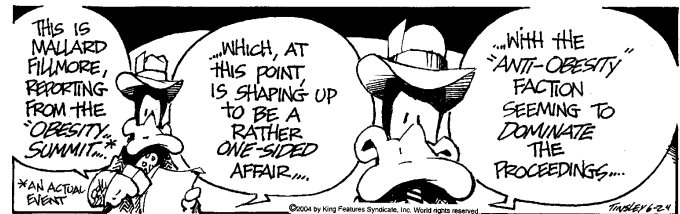
Moore, like his French confreres, has never had much respect for the intelligence of the American public. He seems to be betting that voters will be so dazzled that they'll forget about the war on terror and boot Bush.

But, really, will "Fahrenheit 9/11" defeat a president? Fat chance.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Potential home buyers weigh tax breaks

Real estate shoppers shouldn't assume mortgage will help costs

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As home prices continue to soar in many parts of the United States, real estate brokers and agents are increasingly eager to point out the tax benefits that go along with home ownership, reminding potential buyers that these breaks can make a house less expensive than it seems.

Some even draw up sheets showing how the deductions for mortgage interest and property taxes reduce the real after-tax cost of the house.

But while the tax benefits are indeed real, the tax laws have become so complicated that a generalized set of calculations, which the agents typically use, may or may not reflect what buyers will see on their actual tax return.

Thus, potential home buyers who are thinking of relying on tax benefits to make their new houses affordable should run their own numbers through their computer or take them to an accountant to be sure they don't bite off more house than they can pay for.

The two provisions of today's tax code most likely to rearrange the numbers are the increased standard deduction for couples and the alternative minimum tax for higher-income home buyers,

said Bob D. Scharin, editor of Warren, Gorham & Lamont/RIA's Practical Tax Strategies, a monthly journal for tax professionals.

He noted that last year Congress gave the standard deduction a big boost for married couples as part of its effort to ease the so-called marriage penalty on two-income couples. However, it's temporary unless lawmakers extend it, making planning even harder than usual.

And the alternative minimum tax continues to creep up on middle-class taxpayers, despite minor relief enacted recently.

A third key factor is the buyer's tax bracket. The higher the bracket, the more valuable the deductions become. At the same time, a person barely into a higher bracket can see his taxable income reduced to the point where he is mostly in a lower bracket, cutting the benefit.

In simplest terms, the tax savings from a deduction are equal to your tax bracket. For example, assume Anne and Ben are solidly in the 25 percent tax bracket and already itemize their deductions, such as state income tax, because they exceed the standard deduction of \$9,700. If they buy a house for which they will pay \$10,000 a year in mortgage interest and



As new-home prices continue to rise in the States, real estate agents have been touting the tax breaks that accompany home ownership.

real estate taxes, their tax saving will be \$2,500 (25 percent of \$10,000).

Carol and Dennis have the same income as Anne and Ben, but live in a state with no income tax. Their only expenses eligible for itemized deductions before the home purchase are \$700 in charitable contributions. Without any homeowner deductions, they would claim a standard deduction of \$9,700. With the extra \$10,000 of deductions, they will have itemized deductions of \$10,700.

Result: Their tax saving from home ownership is only \$250 (25 percent of the \$1,000 by which their itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction).

A third permutation: Suppose Eva and Fred itemize their deductions.

Their income is at a level where only their last \$1,000 of income is taxed at the 25 percent rate. (In other words, their taxable income without a home purchase is \$59,100, and the 25 percent tax bracket for joint return filers begins with taxable income over \$58,100. Taxable income over \$43,100 but not over \$58,100 is taxed at a 15 percent rate.) When Eva and Fred purchase a home that increases their deductions by \$10,000, they fall into the 15 percent tax bracket.

Thus, only \$1,000 of the deductions cut their tax by 25 percent; the remaining \$9,000 of deductions save tax at a 15 percent rate. Result: Their tax saving is \$1,600 (25 percent of \$1,000 plus 15 percent of \$9,000).

Higher up the income scale, other complications set in.

The alternative minimum tax, or AMT, requires taxpayers to recompute their taxable income by using a large standard deduction and ignoring certain deductions they are allowed to take for regular tax purposes. They then figure their AMT, using a 26 or 28 percent rate, and pay whichever is higher, their regular tax or the AMT.

Among the ordinary deductions not allowed under the AMT are state and local taxes. Taxpayers subject to the AMT can take a serious hit because of this.

For example, said Scharin, assume Gail and Howard are subject to the AMT and pay tax at the 26 percent AMT rate. Suppose the \$10,000 of homeowner deductions to which they would be entitled is composed of \$3,000 in property taxes and \$7,000 in mortgage interest. Result: Their tax saving will be \$1,820 (\$0 for the real estate tax plus 26 percent of \$7,000).

Another pitfall for upper-income taxpayers is a provision — sometimes referred to as "Pease" — after the congressman whose idea it was — that causes itemized deductions on Schedule A, where mortgage interest and taxes are listed, to start to phase out for taxpayers above a certain income (\$142,700 for a couple). Thus, even taxpayers lucky enough to escape the AMT can see the benefit of homeowner deductions eaten away by Pease.

It's hard to predict where tax laws will go in the next few years, but if rates rise, as many expect, the best guess is that deductions will become more valuable, but also try to gaze into your own future, and see what you think your situation will be.

"Computations become more complex when projecting multi-year tax savings," Scharin said. "Homeowners are likely to find their deductions varying from year to year. It's important to plan as much as possible when buying."

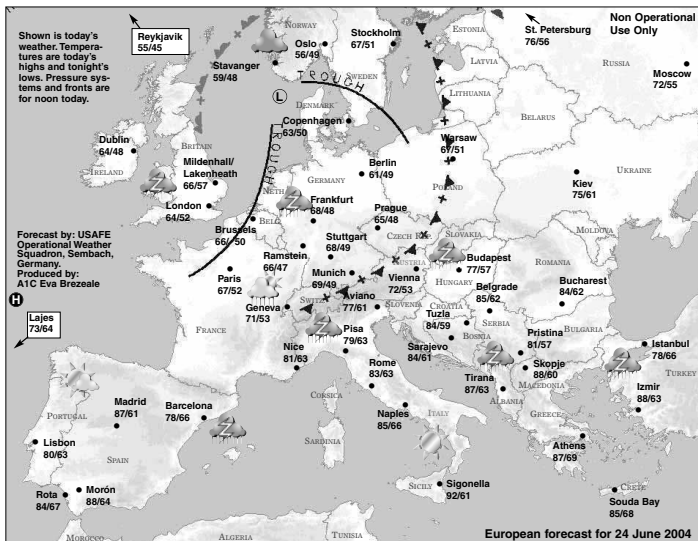
TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	Low	High	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week	Low	High
181.72	167.12	192.12	181.72	+15.56	+8.5	+14.1	10,305	9,750	10,850
3,099.87	2,952.87	3,245.87	3,099.87	+12.59	+4.1	+25.8	8,077.83	7,819.83	8,319.83
203.52	229.46	229.46	203.52	-13	-6	+15.87	278.08	-13	-95
2,108.12	2,438.77	2,438.77	2,108.12	+5.53	+0.3	+18.06	6,553.81	+5.53	+1.9
1,278.88	1,338.73	1,338.73	1,278.88	+11.71	+0.9	+43.6	2,231.71	+11.71	+2.1
1,588.25	1,588.25	1,588.25	1,588.25	+19.17	+1.2	+46.2	1,984.15	+19.17	+1.2
1,163.23	1,163.23	1,163.23	1,163.23	+11.41	+1.1	+36	2,027.13	+11.41	+36
471.59	471.59	471.59	471.59	+15.71	+3.3	+56	2,125.18	+15.71	+3.3
696.42	696.42	696.42	696.42	+31.29	+4.5	+20.9	2,219.17	+31.29	+4.5
11,371.14	9,227.46	10,470.00	11,371.14	+10.02	+0.1	+28	2,215.17	+10.02	+0.1

NYSE

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Net	Chg	Name	Vol	Net	Chg	Name	Vol	Net	Chg
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	Microsoft	99,629	36.08	+0.5	Microsoft	99,629	36.08	+0.5
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	IBM	34,116	11.75	+0.5	IBM	34,116	11.75	+0.5
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	Oracle	54,013	11.32	+0.8	Oracle	54,013	11.32	+0.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
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Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
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United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4	General	738,075	3.71	+1.4
Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8	Intel	340,888	4.39	+0.8
United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8	United	17,374	73.45	+4.8
Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4	Lucent	73,875	3.71	+1.4
General	738,075										



EUROPEAN FORECAST

BeneLux: Cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 50s and lows in the lower to mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers in the evening and thunderstorms and partly cloudy in the morning. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 40s to upper 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with morning isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain-showers to the north in the evening and partly cloudy in the morning. Highs in the upper 60s in the north and lower 80s to the south. Lows in the lower 50s to lower 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 80s and lows in the lower to mid 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the mid to upper 50s and lows in the upper 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms to the northeast and partly cloudy elsewhere. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s and lows in the 60s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s to mid 60s.



AFRICA

Capetown	64	40	Mogadishu	81	40
Dakar	65	42	Nairobi	82	54
Freeport	81	74	Rabat	81	61
Kinshasa	85	69	Tripoli	102	71

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	60	50	Manila	86	76
Bahrain	110	86	Mexico City	72	54
Beijing	83	67	Montreal	75	57
Bombay	80	69	Norfolk	81	60
Buenos Aires	84	71	Rio de Jan	80	69
Calcutta	78	64	Sofia	80	65
Canberra	79	65	Sydney	84	64
Hankou	82	66	Tokyo	82	72
Hong Kong	79	62			

Inchirlik	84/66	Baghdad	109/77	Tehran	98/78
Tel Aviv	84/66	Kuwait	116/84	Dhahran	107/81
Cairo	91/68	Saudi Arabia			

Ashgabat	100/71	Zahedan	99/70	Kandahar	103/71
Kabul	88/60	Dubai	106/83	Karachi	92/84
Islamabad	96/73	Bombay	86/79		

New Delhi	100/81	Hyderabad	94/76		

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (London)	0336	0336
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0517	0518
Sunset (London)	2034	2034
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2139	2139

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

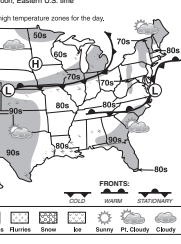
Alaska	78	59	OK	79	58
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Alaska	78	59	OK	79	58
Alaska	78	59	OK	79	58

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



US ARMY EUROPE
BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!
IMA - EUROPE REGION

**PLANNING A CELEBRATION:
USE A DESIGNATED DRIVER**

> About 40,000 people are killed in road accidents on European roads every year.
> The total costs for road accidents are estimated at over 160 billion a year in the European Union.
> It is estimated that excessive blood alcohol concentration is involved in 1 out of 4 accidents and better drink-driving management could prevent up to 10,000 fatalities in the EU annually.

Bodies found

AZ TUCSON — The bodies of two illegal immigrants have been found on the Tohono O'odham Nation near the village of Queenswell, authorities said. U.S. Border Patrol spokesman Charles Griffin said that an immigrant came out of the desert and told a rancher to help him travel with him needed help and the rancher contacted the Border Patrol.

The victims were two Mexican men in their 20s. Their identities were not immediately available.

That makes 60 deaths the Border Patrol has documented in its Tucson sector since Oct. 1, the start of the federal fiscal year.

Cuba course may be off

IN BLOOMINGTON — New federal regulations on studying in Cuba could cancel a proposed Indiana University course in geography and telecommunications. The Treasury Department prohibits students from traveling to Cuba for courses that last less than 10 weeks.

That would block IU from offering the course scheduled to start next summer. It would have ended 12 days of field work near Santa Clara, Bloomington's sister city in central Cuba.

The myth of sunshine

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — The license plates proclaim Florida the Sunshine State, but the National Weather Service says five other states catch more rays.

Arizona is No. 1, followed by California, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas, according to the weather service, which monitors about 265 weather stations nationwide.

"We ought to call ourselves the Puffy Cloudy State instead of the Sunshine State," Miami-based meteorologist Jim Lushine said.

Florida has more days where between 20 to 70 percent of the sun is blocked by clouds than anywhere else in the continental United States, weather officials said. Weather experts said warm water surrounding the state, high humidity and a long rainy season make for cloudy skies.

But Florida still gets its fare share of sun. Key West sees sun an average 76 percent of its available daylight hours — the most in the state — followed by Miami with 70 percent.

That still trails Yuma, which sees 90 percent sun; Redding, Calif., 88 percent; and Reno, Nev., 85 percent.

Suing over statement

NH BARNSTEAD — The parents of two seventh-grade boys are suing the school district after a teacher allegedly called the boys homosexual lovers.

The suit alleges teacher William Sheehan referred to the boys as homosexual lovers twice in class and told the girlfriend of one of the boys why he thought the boy was gay. Further, the parents allege the school principal, Stephen O'Neill, tried to get the girl to change her story about the conversation with the teacher.

The parents, Stephen and Dawn Call and Nathan and Julie Cheney, say O'Neill and the school superin-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

tendent didn't do anything to the teacher after receiving complaints.

The teacher's lawyer says the school offered to have the teacher apologize in class, but the parents wanted a larger, multiclass assembly for the apology.

Lawyer Steven Sacks called the incident a lapse in judgment. He said Sheehan made one remark "in jest."

Both sides had hoped to settle the dispute out of court, but they couldn't agree on an appropriate apology.

Homeless help readied

FL STOCK ISLAND — Monroe County is ready to open a safe zone for homeless people in the Florida Keys this month. But county officials say the facility on Stock Island next to a jail doesn't have enough space for everyone in need. The new center offers sleeping space for up to 130 people. About 800 of the county's 17,000 homeless stay in nearby Key West.

Ferry searches to resume

WA SEATTLE — Random searches of vehicles boarding Washington state ferries will resume next month as part of a new plan for increased security under orders from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Washington state operates the largest ferry system in the United States and the third largest in the world with 20 terminals and 29 vessels that carry more than 25 million passengers each year.

The searches were heavily criticized and discontinued in 2002 following opposition from the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union.

ACLU spokesman Doug Honig said he had not yet seen the new security plan. "The ACLU certainly has concerns any time the government talks about conducting random searches of citizens without reason to think that an individual has done anything wrong," Honig said.

Mainers' migration

ME ORONO — Cutting taxes, improving the job situation and promoting the University of Maine are three ways of keeping more young Mainers from leaving the state, participants in a weekend forum said. Maine had a net loss of more than 6,000 people between 20 and 34 years old between 1995 and 2000, researchers say.

Gov. John Baldacci plans to convene a panel to discuss the suggestions.

Looking for fat facts

AR LITTLE ROCK — Gov. Mike Huckabee said that he wants scientific evidence that vending machines lead to obese children before he fully supports restricting the machines in public schools.

Huckabee suggests restricting vending machine use in a group of schools and comparing the data with schools with unlimited access.

The governor lost 105 pounds in the last year after he received a diagnosis of diabetes.

Fireworks show OK'd

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — City leaders approved the first beachfront Fourth of July fireworks show in 30 years after organizers raised \$100,000 for the 18-minute extravaganza.

Residents and businesses pressed the City Council to revive the fireworks display.

Lab numbers dropping

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The number of methamphetamine labs in Oklahoma has dropped 70 percent since state lawmakers approved restrictions on the sale of cold medicines that contain the illegal drug's key ingredient, authorities said.

The dramatic decline, recorded over the past three months, followed passage of legislation this spring that banned store sales of popular medications such as Sudafed and Claritin-D that contain pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient in methamphetamine. The medications may still be sold in pharmacies, where they must be kept behind the counter and sold only to people who present photo identification and sign for the medicine.

A total of 90 methamphetamine labs were reported to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in March by law enforcement agencies statewide, authorities said. That figure declined to 64 in April and fell further to 29 in May, officials said.

ORN officials said a further decline in meth labs is possible in the coming months as pseudoephedrine inventories are consumed by producers.



Feed me, Mommy!

Three young robins huddled in a nest open their beaks for food as their mother flies nearby. The nest was built on a newspaper delivery box next to the front door of a house in Fargo, N.D.



Fit for a pitch

Payton Rose Nowlin, 8, left, pitches a ball as from left, Hannah Bloch, 7, Megan Fox, 7, and Zach Witherspoon wait their turn during softball practice at Roosevelt Elementary School in Ames, Iowa.



Brave cat rescuer

Carson Freeman, 11, of Colhutta, Ga., tries to block rushing rain water from pouring into a storm drain and drowning a kitten trapped in the drain pipe in Dalton, Ga. While leaving her swim lesson, Freeman and several friends and family members heard the cat and tried to rescue it. Eventually, members of the Dalton Fire Department arrived and brought the cat out.



Airborne afternoon

Samaria Mayben, 10, flies above the fence while bouncing on her trampoline in Troy, N.Y.



Making his day? Brattleboro Police Department Detective Erik Johnson, right, takes it all in stride as members of the Brattleboro Union High School Class of 2004 douse him with water during the school's Alumni Parade in Brattleboro, Vt.



Silhouetted by fire Firefighters pour water on a five-alarm warehouse fire in St. Louis.



Lawn goes aloft A large tree in North Platte, Neb., remains in a yard after it was toppled by high winds during a severe thunderstorm.



Time with family before leaving Pfc. Keith Graeme enjoys a picnic dinner outside the armory in River Falls, Wis., with his wife, Marie, and daughter, Mikayla. Graeme is being deployed with other members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, to Mississippi for a six-month training program.

Necessary danger

PA PITTSBURGH — Police and state regulators acknowledge that unlicensed taxis, known as jitneys, are dangerous but provide a needed service. The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review newspaper reports that at least five jitney drivers have been killed since 1999.

Nearly half of Pittsburgh's black households have no vehicle, according to the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research.

County mulls land deal

AZ MESA — A proposed land deal would preserve 1,200 acres of the San Tan Mountains Regional Park and safeguard the Gila River Indian Community from rapid development. Maricopa County would sell the 1,200-acre parcel to the Indian community to curb development southeast of Phoenix. Further details of the proposal will be discussed at a public meeting June 28.

Inmates escape

TN NASHVILLE — Three inmates, two with artificial limbs, escaped from jail by squeezing through an 8-inch gap onto the roof and using bed sheets to descend three stories. Two were later captured.

William Clay Bohanan, 40, Berl Keith McKinzie, 38, and Billy Leo Potts Jr., 39, fled from a special needs cell at the medium- and maximum-security jail in Nashville.

Left behind in the inmates' beds were dummies made by stuffing newspapers into jail-issued orange jumpsuits, authorities said.

McKinzie has a prosthetic foot and Potts a prosthetic leg. He was caught by the U.S. Marshals Service in north Nashville about two miles from the jail.

Bohanan — awaiting trial on homicide and arson related to a 1993 fire in which two children died — was captured about 15 miles east of the jail, officials said. Potts remained at large.

Controversial store burns

MI HAMPTON TOWNSHIP — A furniture store where a group of white supremacists often met was destroyed by fire, authorities said.

The group organized by a Christian Identity leader, James P. Wickstrom, met at the Marquis Quality Furniture store for about three years.

No one was in the building at the time and no injuries were reported in the fire near Bay City, about 100 miles northwest of Detroit.

Store owners Mary and LeRoy Marquis said they have been threatened since Wickstrom's meetings were publicized in June 2003 and believe the building was set on fire by someone who opposed the meetings. A meeting was held at the store as recently as Memorial Day.

The Christian Identity movement espouses a doctrine that whites are God's chosen people, teaching racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and homophobic beliefs.

Sentence for seventh DUI

VA NORFOLK — A man was sentenced to 15 years in prison after being convicted of his

seventh drunken-driving charge for hitting a pedestrian with his truck, then fleeing the scene.

Prosecutors said Ralph Shaw Jr., 45, hit Norfolk State University student Jason Ingram on board. Ingram was embedded in the windshield and carried for another 30 yards before rolling off.

Ingram, 20, was hospitalized for a week with brain swelling, cuts to his face and a broken eye socket following the October incident.

Circuit Judge Charles Griffith Jr. ordered Shaw to pay \$120,000 in restitution to Ingram and forbid him from ever holding a driver's license again.

Bail for accused wife

VT BRATTLEBORO — A 71-year-old West Townshend woman accused of killing her husband has been released from jail after posting \$100,000 cash bail.

District Court Judge John Wesley ruled that Hope Schreiner, 71, did not pose a significant risk of flight.

Hope Schreiner called 911 on the afternoon of June 2, to report she had found her husband, bloody and unconscious, in his driveway. Robert Schreiner, 78, was later declared dead at the scene.

Hope Schreiner told police she was mentally exhausted from having to deal with her husband's mental illness and felt that he had taken his frustrations out on her, court records said.

She said she had tried putting sleeping pills in his coffee and when that didn't work she struck him in the head, killing him, records said.

Theft puts nene at risk

HI HILO — The recent theft of two "nene crossing" signs from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has officials concerned about the safety of a nene family that's been visiting the area since April.

The signs were located at Crater Rim Drive near the park's Kilauea Overlook, where a family of two parents and two goslings has been grazing on 'ohelo and kiawe berries.

"For a nene family, crossing a busy road like Crater Rim Drive is a harrowing experience," said park biologist Kathleen Misajon. "The theft increases their risk of becoming roadkill."

Goslings cannot fly for the first three to four months of life.

During the same time, adult nene are also earthbound for several weeks as they undergo their annual molt, a process that replaces used feathers with new ones.

The nene is Hawaii's state bird and has been listed as an endangered species since 1967. Intentionally harming a nene is against federal and state law.

Budget deal falters

MI LANSING — Efforts to close \$1.55 billion in deficits in the current and upcoming Michigan state budgets have stalled.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a Democrat, and Republican legislative leaders failed to reach a deal in several meetings. The Senate has rejected three of Granholm's tax proposals, including a 75-cent-per-pack cigarette tax increase and an increase in the liquor tax.

Stories and photos from wire services

Mama Cox shows off new friend



PEOPLE MAGAZINE VIA WIREIMAGE/AP

Courteney Cox holds her newborn daughter, Coco, on Monday in Los Angeles. The former "Friends" actress and her husband, actor David Arquette, became parents on June 13, after years of trying. The couple are co-producers of a home decorating show, "Mix It Up."

Moore movie keeps R rating

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Michael Moore and his distributors lost their appeal Tuesday to lower the R rating for "Fahrenheit 9/11," his scathing assault on President Bush's actions before and after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Lions Gate Films and IFC Films, the movie's distributors, said an appeals board for the Motion Picture Association of America rejected their request to reduce the rating to PG-13.

The R rating prohibits those 17 and younger from seeing "Fahrenheit 9/11" without an adult. "Fahrenheit 9/11," which won the top honor at last month's Cannes Film Festival, depicts the White House as asleep at the wheel before the Sept. 11 attacks. Moore accuses Bush of fanning fears of future terrorism to win public support for the Iraq war.

The movie was rated R for "violent and disturbing images and for language." The images include an Iraqi man tossed a dead baby into a truckload of bodies, Iraqis burned by napalm and a public beheading in Saudi Arabia. Tom Ortenberg, president of Lions Gate Films, had argued to the appeals board that 15- and 16-year-olds should be free to see the film on their own because they could end up in military service in Iraq in the next few years.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" opens nationwide in about 850 theaters Friday.

Olsen twin treated for eating disorder

NEW YORK — Mary-Kate Olsen, the brunette half of the Olsen twins entertainment empire, has entered a treatment facility to seek professional help for a health-related issue, her publicist said Tuesday.

Us Weekly and People magazines reported that Olsen has an eating disorder and entered the unidentified treatment center during the past few days. Us Weekly said Olsen is anorexic.

Mary-Kate and her sister, Ashley, turned 18 on June 13. They recently graduated from high school and plan to attend New York University in the fall. They've been acting together since they were 9 months old.



Olsen

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.af.mil/>

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2004					
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Dr. Phil	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 3)	Nightline	College Baseball	The Wild Thornberys	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 3)
9:30 Jackie Chan	Jackie Chan	Army Newswatch	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Jackie Chan
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Herbivore With Chris Matthews	NCAA Football Series Game 12 - Teams TBA. From Omaha, Neb. (Taped)	The Simpsons	Jeopardy!
10:30 Guiding Light	Wheel of Fortune	ESPN News	60 Minutes II	Happy Days	Headline News
11:00 General Hospital	Advisory Block	60 Minutes II	60 Minutes II	One Tree Hill "Crash Into You"	Headline News
11:30 Headline News	Everybody- Raymond	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The West Wing "Artic Radar"	Everybody- Raymond
12:30 Judge Judy	Scrubz	Good Morning America	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Dominick Dunne: Power, Privilege & Justice	ER "Blood Relations"
13:00 Today Paige Davis. Teens in Training.	Who Wants to Marry My Dad?	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Journeys to the Ends of the Earth	ER "Blood Relations"
14:00 ER "Blood Relations"	ER "Blood Relations"	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Masterpiece Theatre	ER "Blood Relations"
15:00 Hercules	Pacific Report	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	The Tonight Show	The Tonight Show
15:30 Hey Arnold!	The Tonight Show	World News	Beyond the Glory	Late Show	Late Show
16:00 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 3)	The Tonight Show	The Early Show	Beyond the Glory	Late Show	Late Show
16:30 Jackie Chan	Late Show	Jeopardy!	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberys	Jackie Chan
17:00 Jeopardy!	Access Hollywood	FOX News	Tennis Wimbledon - Early Round - Day 4. From the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, England. (Taped)	Happy Days	Access Hollywood
17:30 Headline News	Movie **** "Aliens" (1986) Sigourney Weaver, Michael Biehn. A task force goes to eradicate a vicious space species.	60 Minutes II	FOX News	The Simpsons	Movie **** "Aliens" (1986) Sigourney Weaver, Michael Biehn. A task force goes to eradicate a vicious space species.
18:00 Destinations	Movie **** "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984) Robert Carradine.	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Movie **** "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984) Robert Carradine.
18:30 AFN Evening News	The Hot List	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	The Hot List
19:00 Everybody- Raymond	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	The Tonight Show
20:00 Extreme Makeover	Today Paige Davis. Teens in Training.	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Today Paige Davis. Teens in Training.
20:30 ER "Blood Relations"	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Late Show
21:30 Headline News	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Late Show
22:30 The Tonight Show	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Late Show
23:00 Headline News	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Late Show
23:30 Late Show	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Late Show

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2004					
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
00:00 (11:30) Late Show	(11:00) Today Paige Davis. Teens in Training.	Headline News	SportsCenter	(11:00) Masterpiece Theatre	(11:00) Today Paige Davis. Teens in Training.
00:30 Access Hollywood	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	2004 NBA Draft Special	The Wild Thornberys	Sesame Street (E)
1:00 MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Sesame Street (E)	ABC World News	2004 NBA Draft From New York.	SpongeBob	Late Bill
1:30 CBS Evening News	Little Bill	CBS Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	The Simpsons	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 RuPaul's Drag Race	DC Phil	Hannity & Colmes	DC Phil	Happy Days	DC Phil
2:30 DC Phil	Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Boston Public "Chapter Seventeen"	Happy Days	Oprah Winfrey
3:00 ESPN News	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	BET Nightly News	Happy Days	NBC Nightly News
3:30 ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	Jeopardy!	Business Rpt.	Happy Days	Jeopardy!
4:00 Headline News	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live Bill Clinton.	Sports	Happy Days	Access Hollywood
4:30 Headline News	Guiding Light	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Guiding Light
5:00 Headline News	General Hospital	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	General Hospital
5:30 ESPN News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Jeopardy!
6:00 Headline News	PrimeTime Thursday	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	PrimeTime Thursday
6:30 Headline News	Rock's Modern Life	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Rock's Modern Life
7:00 Sesame Street (E)	Dr. Phil	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Ozzy & Drix
7:30 Little Bill	The Mummy	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Jeopardy!
8:00 Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
9:00 Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
9:30 An Told by Ginger	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
10:30 Guiding Light	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
11:00 General Hospital	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
11:30 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
12:00 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
12:30 Judge Judy	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
13:00 Today Alfred Molina. Jimmy Buffett.	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
14:00 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
14:30 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
15:00 House of Mouse	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
15:30 Rock's Modern Life	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
16:00 Ozzy & Drix	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
16:30 As Told by Ginger	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
17:00 Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
17:30 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
18:00 ESPN News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
18:30 AFN Evening News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
19:00 The Simpsons	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
19:30 Malcolm in the Middle	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
20:00 The Apprentice	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
20:30 Alias "Crossings"	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
21:00 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
21:30 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
22:00 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
22:30 The Tonight Show	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
23:00 Headline News	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News
23:30 Late Show	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	Happy Days	Headline News

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STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

'It's Julie'

Nashville music mogul's secretary turns out to be singer with soulful voice

By ERIC R. DANTON
The Hartford Courant

It might as well be a fairy tale.

Julie Roberts, office girl with golden voice, answers phones for Nashville label chief by day and sings with a band in bars by night.

One day her boss hears demos she has worked on in secret and is stunned to learn that the voice that has captivated him belongs to his assistant down the hall.

She gets a record deal, of course, and a publicity blowout that includes a seven-page photo spread in *Maxim*, a feature story in *Glamour* and a behind-the-scenes account of her improbable rise on Country Music Television.

Not bad for someone who at this time last year was still taking lunch orders.

"It really is a blessing," Roberts says from her home in Nashville during a break from promoting her self-titled debut. "I moved to Nashville to sing. I didn't know how I was going to get to sing. I just gave it to God."

The album, on Mercury, is a homey collection of first-rate country tunes. But what makes "Julie Roberts" special is Julie Roberts. It's her full-bodied voice, which she can twist into an earthy growl or use to pour on

emotion until you're blinking back tears. That's what caught the notice of Brent Rowan, a veteran session guitarist and producer who has worked with Joe Nichols, Tim McGraw, Toby Keith and Neil Diamond.

"After hearing a recording of Roberts and her band, Rowan offered to work with the singer, and the two began cutting songs whenever both could find time. He says her potential is unlimited."

"For me, music is down to two things: I either believe it, or I don't, and with her, I just believed it," Rowan says. "Her voice seemed to come from a really deep well of pain in her being, just that soulfulness."

Rowan eventually played a handful of Roberts' demos at the end of a routine meeting with her boss, Luke Lewis, the president of MCA and Mercury operations in Nashville. Lewis demanded to know the singer's name, but Rowan refused until after the last tune ended. Then he said, "It's Julie."

"My first reaction was disbelief," Lewis said. "Then I felt foolish for not knowing how talented she was when we had worked so closely."

Lewis didn't mind because Roberts was careful to keep it from him.

The 25-year-old singer moved



AP photos

Country music singer Julie Roberts was a secretary by day, and singing in nightclubs by night before her boss heard her demo tape.

from South Carolina to Nashville five years ago to finish college at Belmont University. She was enrolled in the college's entertainment and music business program, which secured her an internship with MCA/Mercury. After two years as an intern, the company hired her as a receptionist, never knowing of her aspirations to sing.

"I never talked about it at work because I was scared," Roberts said. "At Belmont, I remember being told, 'If you're a

singer, don't talk about it, and don't force it on somebody if you're going to go work at a record label.' So I never talked about it; it was my night life. It was my other life, really."

Now it's her life full time, and Roberts seems undaunted even by the risk of overexposure from the publicity surrounding her debut.

"I'm not going to complain one bit. I'm not going to say, 'No, don't do *Maxim*,' because I'm afraid of too much hype," she says.

Dylan ready to play ball

Bob Dylan will tour minor-league ballparks across the country this summer, beginning Aug. 6 in Cooperstown, N.Y., home of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Dylan will be joined on the

22-date concert tour by Willie Nelson and The Hot Club of Cowtown.

The tour will run through Sept. 4, Columbia Records announced Monday.

The Bob Dylan Show will include stops in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Dylan

Bon Jovi sell-off

Years ago, Alec John Such provided the backbeat as bassist for Bon Jovi. It's been 10 years since he left the band, and he wants to move to a smaller place.

So he decided to auction some memorabilia Sunday from Colts Neck, N.J., the third such sale he has had in recent years. This time, though, there weren't many buyers.

A few Fender bass guitars sold for \$700 to \$750, and a 1960 MGA Roadster convertible went for \$7,500. All told, the auction netted about \$30,000 from 300 items.

Last year, a similar auction sold 1,000 items and made a \$300,000 profit, and a 2000 auction took in \$400,000.

Such is also selling his colonial-style home and three acres of property.

"I broke my hip when my car was hit head-on by a drunk driver in 1995," said Such, 52. "I just don't feel like walking up and down stairs anymore."

Opera rocks

Opera classics by Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner will be performed at Denmark's annual Roskilde Festival, one of Europe's biggest outdoor rock events.

Members of the Danish Royal Opera, a chamber choir and a symphony orchestra will play during the July 1-4 musical festival known more for its rock, punk, funk and hip-hop jams.

"It is always exciting when the arts break out of their tight frames, and meet with other genres," Kasper Bech Holten, director of the Royal Theater's opera troupe, said Friday.

Besides the opera — dubbed by the official program as "the most alternative genre" of the festival lineup — an estimated 40,000 fans will also see and hear more than 150 artists on the festival's six stages, including David Bowie, the Pixies, Morrissey, Sahara Hotnights and Avril Lavigne.

First held in 1971, Roskilde, 25 miles west of the capital, Copenhagen, was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



AP photos

Roberts performs at a mall in Pineville, N.C., in May. After her performance, Roberts autographed copies of her CD for her fans.

Horoscope

An aspect involving Saturn and Neptune brings clarity to an issue that has long been clouded. Being imaginative helps you in logical questions and in solving practical problems. Strive to bring with all sides of your brain — there is not one right answer. Also, when we stop being quick to judge, we can find support more easily.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 24). The advancement you've been working toward and the recognition you deserve will be yours in the coming year. Though you'll be working hard through the next three months, do take time to travel — new financial opportunities will open up. Your efforts will bring the whole family closer in September. Love signs are Taurus and Scorpio. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 10, 45, 15 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're organizing big blocks of mental energy, deciding your emotional priorities and hopefully declaring what you're willing to do to make a dream real. Figure out your finances tonight. Do you have enough to move yet?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The world sees you differently than it did yesterday — and after a bit of adjustment, you'll see yourself differently as well. Roll with your unusual luck. It could lead down a path you wouldn't normally think to take.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You're embroiled in an interesting competition. This has actually been building up for weeks now under the radar, and you could suddenly realize your feisty feelings. Give yourself plenty of love and attention.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Blame is wrongly being passed around, and it's easy to buy into the group mentality. Separate yourself instead. You're not a lemming, and there's no reason to scurry off the cliff like the others. Stay out of gossip.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

When your project gets pushed to the wayside again, it's time to get seri-

ous about time management. Explore more possibilities. Ask yourself what you'd be doing if not for the current financial and time limitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You'd do what you love and feel that it matters — how could a day be better spent? The best mood is the one you cultivate alone, but for activities that can't be accomplished solo, dealing with a Cancer will be most satisfactory.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're even friendlier than usual, especially when you're not expected to be. You never understood those people who have a personal problem that is so far away from how they really are in their personal lives.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're on a mission, and you'll tell everyone in your path what it is you want and how you'll make it happen. No one is an island. Depend on your friends. A strategic alliance will help you gain an edge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Like the John Mayer song, you're bigger than your body gives you credit for. Get back in touch with your inner Statue of Liberty (or King Kong) because it's time to reclaim one of those oversized dreams of yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

New environments bring good fortune. You may find yourself starting to pick up the traditions, value systems and mannerisms of the new place. Shopping is lucky. You can make your home a masterpiece on a limited budget.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

What you see is what you get, then it's time to look beyond the superficial and see the endless, unlimited potential in situations. A new character enters your life tonight, catching you in the act of striving. Team up with a Libra.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

It's an introspective morning. A mellow, low-key day will get you back in sync, so don't be hard on yourself if you'd rather stay in your room and read. But do read something with the potential to inspire you.

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Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



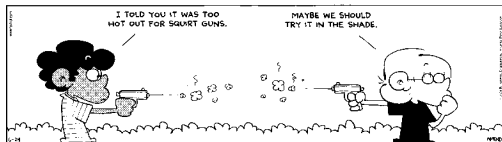
Better or Worse



Peanuts



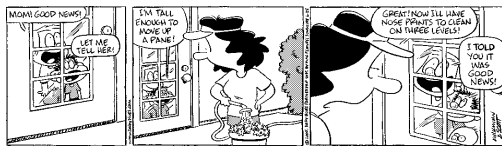
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



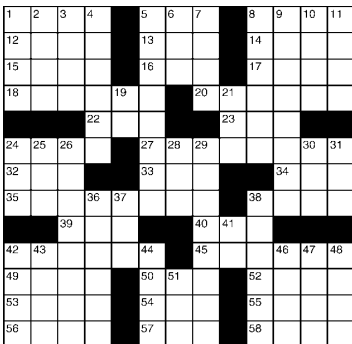
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Out of
5 WWF surface
8 Perukes
12 Wheels of fortune?
13 Zsa Zsa's sis
14 Send forth
15 Scored 100 on
16 Tillis or Brooks
17 Basicalia section
20 Former talk-show host Dick
22 Evergreen
23 Apiece
24 Host
27 Decorator's
32 Extinct New Zealander
33 Chief Babylonian god
34 Idolater's emotion
35 One of a record-setting birth
38 Coaster
39 Ostrich's kin
40 Make up your mind
42 Bar
45 Make less dense
49 Met melody
50 Will Smith biopic
52 Farm fraction
53 Watergate problem
54 "and... and sympathy"

Down

- 11 instruct
13 "If — the Zoo"
15 Congers
17 Scale member
18 Stresand movie
25 Sinbad's transport
26 Fabric
28 Away from SSW
29 Serving to
30 Have bills
31 Roulette bet
36 Eskimo boats
37 Young seal
38 Pressure
41 Dad
42 Post-Christmas event
43 Genealogy chart
44 Packs away
46 Beige
47 "Animal House" group
48 Strong desires
51 Writer
52 Buscaglia

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-24

CRYPTOQUIP

DIFWQNI DJRU HCUJZV
CQW FPCQW F UFKWIN
RFGGIN HRJUPIN: "WLI
RCNG.CD WLI NQZVK."
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN TWO PASTORS
CHAT BY PHONE, I'D PROBABLY CONSIDER IT A
PARSON-TO-PARSON CALL.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals R

Turning stressful talk around

Dear Abby: I had a problem similar to the one described by "Stressed Out by Mom," the college student whose mother calls to unload her problems. A therapist taught me a technique that worked wonders. When Mom called and complained, instead of sympathizing (which is why she called in the first place), I'd mirror her complaint back to her so she didn't receive the positive feedback she was seeking.

"When she said, 'Your sister doesn't know how to save money,' I'd reply, 'So what you're saying is my sister doesn't know how to save money.'"

However, when she said something positive, like, "Isn't it a lovely day?" I'd be sure to give her all kinds of positive feedback. "It sure is! I'll bet your marigolds are really blooming now!"

It worked like a charm and preserved my relationship with my mother. She quickly lost interest in the topics that didn't bring

positive feedback, and we'd end up talking about all kinds of interesting things.

— **Tried It in Portland, Ore.**

Dear Tried It: Thank you for the suggestion. I was surprised for the deluge of mail I received from readers who identified with "Stressed" problem. Read on:

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I'm a 57-year-old woman who has had the same problems with my now 76-year-old mother since childhood. Please tell "Stressed Out" that she must take immediate steps to set healthy boundaries. She should schedule an appointment at the student health center and talk to a psychologist.

I am the only family member still on speaking terms with Mother. Her eight siblings, the folks at the senior center and people from her former church no longer talk to her. I'm the only one she has

left to lash out at — and if I try to set boundaries now, the breach it will create will leave her with no support system at all.

— **Wish I'D Done It in Frederickburg, Va.**

Dear Wish: Perhaps the suggestion offered by the next writer will be of help to you.

Dear Abby: I have a relative who is an alcoholic. He calls to ramble, complain and generally make me miserable.

I relieve my stress by playing computer games, reading a magazine or watching TV while he's talking. The trick is to otherwise engage your mind while uttering an occasional response. When he hangs up, I have no idea what he said, but he is happy and I'm not stressed.

— **Coping in Bloomington, Ind.**

Dear Coping: Not everyone has your level of tolerance.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEMAL

DOBOL

HATHEL

REWEPT

www.jumble.com

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARRAY GROOM BIGAMY UNLIKE

Answer: Why he quit his job on the offshore oil rig — IT WAS BORING

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARRAY GROOM BIGAMY UNLIKE

Answer: Why he quit his job on the offshore oil rig — IT WAS BORING

Husband must boot the bottle

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for seven years.

Each year, we get into a huge fight about his drinking. "Steve" is not an alcoholic, but he can't hold his liquor. When Steve is sober, he's a great father, a wonderful husband and a hard worker. When he's intoxicated, he becomes critical, insulting and silly in front of his children. His friends are drinkers and drug addicts, and they're a bad influence on him.

My father was an alcoholic, and I don't want to end up like my mother. She always locked us in a room so my father wouldn't hurt us.

He was never physically abusive, but Mom always feared it was possible. I don't want to live that life again.

I have threatened to leave when Steve comes home drunk. Then he will stop for months, maybe as long as a year, but he starts all over again as soon as his friends ask him to come over. He always

Annie's Mailbox



promises he will quit drinking, but then he does it anyway. Should I leave him?

Dear Ohio: Steve may not be a textbook alcoholic, but he definitely has a drinking problem. Unfortunately, ultimatums will not get him to stop. He must want to do this for himself.

Since there are children involved, please don't give up without checking your phone book for *Al-Anon* (al-anon-alateen.org). Steve also could use a new group of friends. The ones he has now aren't doing him any good whatsoever.

Dear Annie: Boy, you women sure stick together. I'm talking about the letter from "Extended Family in Massachusetts," who wanted to invite the ex-on-in-law out for dinner, but their daughter, "Jenny," objected. Sometimes Jenny wouldn't let them see the grandchildren if she didn't get her way. You told those parents to

stay friendly with the ex, but not to invite him for dinner, and that they should be more "sensitive" to Jenny's feelings.

To hell with Jenny's feelings. Why should the parents bow to her demands? Tell her to get a life and leave her parents alone. She shouldn't be asking for a divorce and then holding the children hostage until she gets her way. She'll end up alienating her children from herself, not from their father.

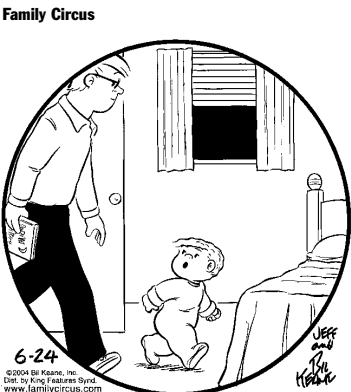
The parents should spend time with whomever they want. Jenny should learn that not everything revolves around her.

— **A Real Angry Man in South Carolina**

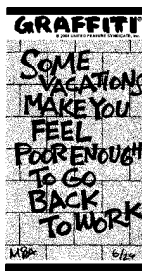
Dear Angry Man: A lot of readers were upset with Jenny. We were, too. However, given the choice of seeing their grandchildren or having dinner with the ex-on-in-law, we opted for the former.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime *Family in Massachusetts* column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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"I'll never forget what happened today ... or no, I think it was yesterday."



Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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STARS AND STRIPES

Cubs closing quickly on Central rivals

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Chicago Cubs are closing too fast for the rest of the NL Central to keep up.

At one point early this month, they were in fourth place. Now the Cubs could leave St. Louis as the division leader. They got within a game of the Cardinals on Tuesday night when Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run double off

closer Jason Isringhausen with two outs in the eighth inning to help Chicago to a 5-4 win.

It was the Cubs' ninth win in 10 games, outpacing even the Cardinals, who have won 15 of 21, but lost two straight.

Isringhausen (3-2) was trying for his sixth multi-inning save of the season. He relieved Jason Marquis after the starter allowed a single to Mark Grudzielanek and he was sacrificed over. After a retiring Moises Alou, Isringhausen pitched carefully to Sammy Sosa, who drew a walk on a full count, before Ramirez doubled.

Isringhausen didn't consider Sosa's at-bat pivotal.

"I'm not going to let that man beat me," Isringhausen said. "No disrespect to Aramis. Then again, if I throw a strike to him and he beats me, then everybody asks me why I threw to him. It's a no-win situation."

"He's an RBI guy," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said of Ramirez. "He's had two 100-RBI years, and he's getting better."

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa defended going to Isringhausen for what would have been a five-out save because the Cubs' 3-4-5 hitters were coming up and Isringhausen had two days off since a four-out save on Saturday.

"I was trying to win the game," La Russa said. "He's fresh, it's the heart of the order in the eighth. LaTroy Hawkins finished for his ninth save in 12 chances."

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Sammy Sosa scores the Cubs' game-winning run on an eighth-inning double by Aramis Ramirez as Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny can't handle the throw. Sosa had walked on a full count to bring up Ramirez.

ing Los Angeles in the NL West. Deivi Cruz went 5-for-5 with three doubles and two RBIs for the Giants, who have won 13 of their past 14 home games to take the division lead for the first time since April 13. They trailed by eight games in May.

Marlins 4, Braves 3: Carl Pavano (8-2) held visiting Atlanta to three runs and nine hits in seven innings, winning his fourth consecutive start and fifth in six outings.

Pitch-hitter Lenny Harris walked and scored on a wild pitch in the seventh inning, helping Florida stop a three-game losing streak.

Atlanta has lost five of six and nine of 13.

Expos 5, Phillies 2: At Montreal, Livan Hernandez (4-7) doubled twice and got his first win in five weeks.

Brad Wilkerson, who fell a triple short of his second cycle in two seasons, and Brian Schneider each had three hits for Montreal, which won its third in a row following a seven-game losing streak.

Brewers 6, Rockies 2: Larry Walker made his return for the visiting Rockies, but Colorado's Javier Lopez (0-2) broke a seventh-inning tie when he hit consecutive batters with the bases loaded.

Walker doubled in his season

debut after missing the Rockies' first 68 games with a strained left groin.

Keith Ginter added a two-run double in the five-run seventh, giving Doug Davis (7-5) his third straight victory.

Astros 5, Pirates 4: Roy Oswalt (5-6) pitched eight solid innings to outduel Kris Benson (5-7).

Morgan Ensberg hit a tiebreaking triple in the seventh and the Astros came from behind for the second consecutive night, dropping the Pirates to 1-15 in their last 16 games in Houston.

Oswalt allowed three runs, nine hits and did not walk a batter, sending Pittsburgh to its 10th straight road loss and fifth in a row overall.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 1 (10): Khalil Greene scored from second when Arizona's Scott Hairston botched a potential double-play ball with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning.

With Greene on second and Sean Burroughs at first, Hairston tried to glove Mark Loretta's chopper to second and tag Burroughs to start a double play. But the ball popped loose and rolled into shallow left field, allowing Greene to score.

The Padres started the winning rally when Greene was hit by a pitch from Mike Kopechne (2-2) leading off the inning.



Red Sox Manny Ramirez (24) and Trot Nixon (7) greet Nomar Garciaparra, right, after his grand slam against the Twins in the seventh inning.

Garciaparra, A-Rod homer in victories

The Associated Press

Nomar Garciaparra and Alex Rodriguez carried their teams to victory. The Tampa Bay Devil Rays kept winning without big stars.

Garciaparra hit a grand slam Tuesday night for his first home run of the season, sending the Boston Red Sox to a 9-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park.

"It was nice," said Garciaparra, who missed the first 57 games with right Achilles' tendinitis. "We never counted on just one guy. We expect to pick each other up, always."

Rodriguez did most of the damage for the New York Yankees, who beat the Baltimore Orioles 10-4 at Camden Yards. He passed Joe Mauer on the career home run list, connecting twice and driving in five runs.

"Alex was dynamite," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

And the same could be said of the surprising Devil Rays, who extended their franchise-record winning streak to 12 games by beating the Toronto Blue Jays 5-1 at SkyDome behind homers from Julio Lugo and Carl Crawford.

"At the beginning of the season it was terrible. We were just Tampa Bay," Lugo said. "Now everybody is calling us the stingy Rays."

Tampa Bay starter Chad Gaudin was lifted after walking four in the first inning, but four relievers were the rest of the way for a three-hitter.

The Devil Rays (33-34) went 3-19 from April 25 to May 19, but they're a major league-best 23-6 in their past 29 games. They have the longest winning streak in the majors since Arizona won 12 straight last season.

At Baltimore, Mike Mussina (8-4) overcame a rocky start to win his seventh straight decision. In his first game since leaving a June 11 outing with a groin injury, he lasted just five innings.

"I was trying to make sure that I didn't do anything foolish," Mussina said. "But as it went on, I got a little more loose and a little

more comfortable. I could tell it was getting a little tired when we decided that was enough."

Rodriguez had his 35th multi-homer game. He hit a three-run shot off Matt Ripley (1-3) in the first inning and a two-run drive against Rodrigo Lopez in the seventh to help the Yankees improve to 7-0 against Baltimore this season.

At Boston, Garciaparra's fifth career slam backed Curt Schilling, 5-1 in his past three starts. David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez also homered for the Red Sox.

"It's like pick your poison," said Johnny Damon, who doubled twice. "We have some of the best 3-4-5 hitters in the league."

Schilling (9-4) is 6-0 at Fenway Park, the first pitcher in the majors to win his first six home decisions this season. He allowed one run, four hits and no strikeouts in seven innings with five strikeouts.

Rangers 10, Mariners 2: Ryan Drees (4-4) pitched four-hit ball for eight innings and Rod Barajas homered in his third straight game.

The Rangers won their fourth straight and are in first in the AL West at the latest point in a season since 1999 — when they won their last division title. Visiting Seattle had four wins straight and 10 of 14, but is 9½ games back in last place.

Royals 8, Tigers 1: At Kansas City, Mo., Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Mike Sweeney added a three-run shot in the eighth, sending Detroit to its fourth straight loss.

White Sox 11, Indians 9 (10): Jose Valentin drove in five runs, including a two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th off Jose Jimenez. Frank Thomas had a three-run shot for Chicago, which nearly squandered an eight-run lead.

Angels 6, Athletics 1: Bartolo Colon (5-6) took a shutout into the eighth inning and the Angels beat visiting Oakland, which has lost seven of eight after an eight-game winning streak.

Few veterans, 9 free agents among Bobcats' 19 picks

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Don't get too attached to the 19 players the Charlotte Bobcats picked in the NBA expansion draft: The team expects less than half of them to make it to the first training camp.

The Bobcats stocked their roster with a mix of young players Tuesday night short on name recognition but rich in potential.

Jason Kapono of Cleveland, Gerald Wallace of Sacramento, Tamar Slay of New Jersey and Jamal Samsone all could make the team. Too bad the 500 or so fans who turned out for the selection show had never heard of them.

"What we want is players who need an opportunity to show they can play. Players talk all the time, they want PT — playing time, and they want to know their role. We can guarantee both," general manager and coach Bernie Bickerstaff said.

Nine of the selections are restricted free agents, meaning they automatically become unrestricted free agents and can negotiate with every NBA team except the ones that left them unprotected.

That's bad news for the handful of fans in the crowd of 500 who cheered the selection of Marcus Fizer of Chicago.

But Jahidi White of Phoenix and Wallace — the only other players to draw any sort of fan response — should show up in Bobcats orange this fall. The Suns gave Charlotte \$3 million and a future first-round pick to take White. The six-year veteran will have the highest salary of any Bobcats player, \$5.88 million.

Although some players might be reluctant to join an expansion team, Kapono was not. Kapono, who Bickerstaff picked despite "incentive offers" from Cleveland not to choose him, was thrilled to be coming to Charlotte.

"I am really excited to be join-

Bobcats expansion list

Player	Pos	Previous Team
X-Loney Baxter	F	Washington Golden State
X-J.R. Bremer	G	New Orleans
X-Maurice Carter	G-F	LA Clippers
X-Pedro Domingos	F	Portland
X-Deshaun Ferguson	F	Chicago
X-Marcus Fizer	G	Seattle
X-Rodney Frazier	F	Boston
Brandon Hunter	F	Orlando
Jason Kapono	F	LA Lakers
Zaza Pachulia	F-C	New Jersey
Aleksandar Pavlovic	F	Memphis
Theron Smith	F	Denver
X-Tamar Slay	F	Sacramento
X-Jeff Trepagnier	C-F	Phoenix
Gerald Wallace	F	Miami
X-Jahidi White	C-F	Phoenix
X-Loren Woods	C	Miami

X=restricted free agent (becomes unrestricted due to selection)

Also received the No. 2 overall pick from L.A. Clippers in exchange for the No. 4 and No. 33 overall picks in 2004 draft.

Also received a future first-round draft pick from Cleveland and cash from Phoenix.

ing a new franchise where everybody is going to start on the same level and everyone will have the same chance," he told The Associated Press by telephone from California. "The only thing I am anxious about is the three-hour plane ride to Charlotte because I can't wait to get there."

White, Wallace of Sacramento and Predrag Drobnjak of the Los Angeles Clippers were the most experienced players among the Bobcats' selections from the other 29 NBA franchises.

The Bobcats also selected Utah guard Aleksandar Pavlovic, who will be dealt to Cleveland for a future first-round draft pick.

Pavlovic will give the Cavs a shooter to replace Kapono, who was one of just four guards chosen by the Bobcats.

A big name will be added in Thursday night's NBA Draft when the Bobcats select either Emeka Okafor or high school phenom Dwight Howard.

Charlotte traded the No. 4 pick to the Clippers to move up and make a run at Okafor.

Other selections were Indiana center Primoz Brezec, Orlando forward Zaza Pachulia, Boston forward Brandon Hunter and Memphis forward Theron Smith.



The Bobcats' selection of Marcus Fizer makes the Bulls forward an unrestricted free agent.

"We think this young man is the sleeper of this selection," Bickerstaff said of Smith, who appeared in 20 games for Memphis last season and averaged 2.2 points.

Each NBA team could protect up to eight players, but had to make at least one player available if they didn't have eight to protect.

The restricted free agents selected by the Bobcats included Seattle guard Richie Frahm, Miami center Loren Woods, forward Slay, Nuggets guard Jeff Trepagnier, Washington forward Lonnie Baxter, Golden State guard J.R. Bremer, Fizer, New Orleans guard Maurice Carter and Portland swingman Desmond Ferguson.

One glaring omission from the expansion draft was a point guard, which Bickerstaff said he'd try to get through free agency.

"We must find a point guard," Bickerstaff said. "We would look for a veteran point guard to mentor the younger guys, but it is the young guys' game. A veteran will be here to give us respect with the referees and professionalism in the locker room."



South Carolina's Steve Pearce and Bryan Triplett celebrate after Triplett scored on Pearce's two-run home run in the first inning against Miami in a College World Series elimination game.

S. Carolina, Arizona remain alive in CWS

BY ERIC OLSON

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Bryan Triplett had four hits, and Nick Gardiner and Brendan Winn drove in three runs each as South Carolina eliminated Miami from the College World Series with a 15-11 victory Tuesday night.

Winn, Steven Tolleson and Steve Pearce homered, and the Gamecocks scored the most runs against Miami since Florida got 15 in last year's NCAA regional.

Winn scored five times to tie a CWS record.

Miami was the second team knocked out of the CWS on Tuesday. Georgia, eliminated Arizona with a 3-1 victory earlier in the day.

The Gamecocks, beaten 2-0 by Cal State Fullerton in their CWS opener, defeated LSU 15-4 on Monday and became the first team since LSU in 1991 to score 15 or more runs in consecutive Series games.

"Maybe we were due a little bit," South Carolina coach Ray Tanner said. "In the first game we were goose-egged and we have been in our other two trips out here."

"We're capable of throwing up some runs like these other guys, too. It's very rare you can do it on back to back teams like LSU and Miami."

South Carolina starter Billy Buckner (7-2) scattered nine hits and struck out 10 in seven innings.

The Gamecocks (51-16) play Wednesday against Cal State Fullerton. They will have to beat the Titans twice to reach the best-of-three championship round that starts this weekend.

Georgia faces a similar task as it must beat top-seeded Texas on Wednesday and Thursday to get to the championship series.

Jon Jay had a three-run homer and a career-high four RBIs, and Roger Tomas went 4-for-5 to lead Miami (30-13), which scored seven runs in the last two innings after falling behind 15-4.

The Hurricanes, who lost to Fullerton on Monday, outfit the Gamecocks 17-16 but couldn't avoid losing consecutive games for the first time this season.

South Carolina scored at least two runs in each of the first four innings to build a 12-0 lead. The Gamecocks finished with their most runs since scoring 16 against Delaware State in March.

Pearce hit a two-run homer, his team-leading 21st, in the first off Miami starter Brandon Camarrese (6-3), who lasted just 1 1/3 innings.

Georgia's Michael Hyle pitched six shutout innings, and Marshall Szabo had three hits — including a triple and double in the Bulldogs' win over Arizona.

"We can't even enjoy this for a little bit, huh?" Georgia coach David Perno said of having to play the top-seeded Longhorns. "I guess that's where we have to go next."

The Bulldogs (45-22) lost 9-3 to Texas on Sunday.

"We're better than we showed Sunday night, and our players want a shot to go out and prove it," Perno said.

Arizona (36-27) went 1-2 in its first CWS appearance since 1986, losing twice to Georgia.

Hyle (8-2) scattered six hits, walked two and struck out five before leaving in the seventh inning. Will Startup earned his 12th save of the season and second of the CWS.

Startup retired five in a row, striking out three. The All-Southeastern Conference closer has allowed four hits and one run in six innings of CWS work, and he said he's ready to pitch some more on short rest.

"This is the biggest stage in college baseball, so there's no question I'll be ready to go," he said.

Kevin Guyette (6-8) gave up two runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Georgia scored twice in the third when Szabo drove in a run and then came home on Joey Sade's single. The Bulldogs added an insurance run in the eighth when Szabo tripled and then scored on Bobby Felmy's two-out single.

Arizona got only one runner past second base in the first six innings.

The Wildcats broke through in the seventh against Startup. He bounced back to retire the final five batters, striking out three.

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Safin, weather slam Wimbledon

Russian says he 'gives up'; third day washed out

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Marat Safin has an aversion to the grass courts at Wimbledon. In fact, he hates them so much he wants no part of the place.

"I give up on Wimbledon," Safin said after losing to fellow Russian Dmitry Tursunov in the first round on Tuesday. "This is definitely not the tournament for me."

Wimbledon is a place for rain, and Wednesday it washed out and play completely and prompted organizers to consider playing matches on the middle Sunday for only the third time in tournament history.

The last time a whole day's play was called off was on the first Tuesday in 1999.

The last time matches were played on the middle Sunday was 1997, when two days were washed out and only 94 matches were finished after three days. The only other time was in 1991 when only 52 matches were completed after four days.

Tournament officials postponed 29 second-round matches and announced that play would start an hour earlier Thursday, at 11 a.m. on outside courts and noon on Centre and Court 1 — weather permitting.

Men's doubles matches, meanwhile, will be reduced to best-of-three sets until the quarterfinals. That also happened in 1991, '97 and '98.

Only 83 of the scheduled 128 singles

matches were completed on the opening two days, the fewest on the first Monday and Tuesday since 1991.

"Officially, we're 45 matches behind and, if we were thinking of playing on Sunday, that would not be until Friday," tournament referee Alan Mills said. "Obviously, we would like to not play on the middle Sunday."



Second-seeded Andy Roddick and No. 3 Guillermo Coria were among those hoping to resume matches that had been suspended Tuesday evening.

Roddick was up 4-2 against Taiwan's Wang Yeu-tzuoo on Centre Court. Coria, the French Open runner-up, was two points away from victory against Wesley Moodie when play was stopped at 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-7 (3), 5-3.

"I expect this when I come here," said 2001 champion Goran Ivanisevic, who is retiring after the tournament. "We had great weather the last two weeks. I knew something bad has to come."

Ivanisevic's second-round match against Filippo Volandri was among those called off Wednesday.

Safin completed his match — with former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, one of Safin's biggest fans, watching — on Tuesday. Yeltsin left after Safin lost four straight games to drop the second set.

Things only got worse for Safin. He smashed his racket, swore at the umpire and put in little effort near the end of the 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (1) defeat.

"After awhile, I just get bored," he said. "I lost completely motivation, and I give up."

It was a startling admission from a player who is no stranger to controversy. At the French Open last month, Safin pulled down his shorts during a second-round victory over Felix Mantilla.

Safin, 24, is considered one of the most talented and physically imposing players in the game. He won the U.S. Open and reached No. 1 in the rankings in 2000. He got to the Australian Open final twice (2002 and 2004) and the French Open semis in 2002.

But Wimbledon has always been Safin's least favorite Grand Slam.

He reached the quarterfinals in 2001, but failed to advance past the second round in three other appearances.

Tuesday's loss marked the first time he's been knocked out in the first round of a Grand Slam event since the 2000 Australian Open.

While the swaggering 6-foot-4 Safin would seem to have the physique and booming shots to win at Wimbledon, he insists he just can't deal with the footwork and low bounces.

"I don't feel like I'm moving," he said. "I cannot move there. Every time, I don't know how it's going to bounce. It's like a real nightmare for me."

Part of the adjustment to grass is mental. "You have to be really focused in your mind, but it's not my territory," Safin said. Safin didn't say he won't be back at Wim-



Marat Safin throws his racket after losing a point to Dmitry Tursunov during their first-round match at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

bledon, only that from now on he won't bother showing up early to practice on grass or play in warmup events. Instead, he'll just arrive a couple of days before the tournament.

"I hate this," he said. "I'll just practice a couple of days, then I play. I'm not going to waste my time on that knowing I will not play well."

Yeltsin's presence didn't help some other top Russian players, either.

Also upset in the first round was sixth-seeded Elena Dementieva, the French Open finalist, who lost 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 to Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic. No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsova was ousted by France's Virginie Razzano in three sets.

There's a new reason to celebrate this Fourth of July ...

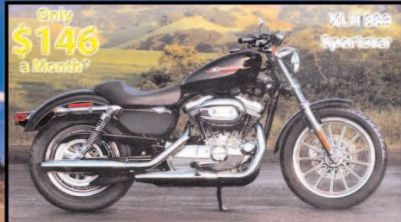
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SPORTS



With wins in nine of past 10,
Cubs close in on first place
in NL Central, Page 30

In draft, two schools of thought

Teams lured by potential of prep stars like Howard

BY MARC NARDUCCI
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — High school players have been selected in the first round of the NBA Draft every year since 1995.

Not only will that streak stay intact, but in addition, this year's class is expected to set a record for players going from the high school from directly to the NBA.

There were a record four high school first-rounders last year and in 2001.

The 2001 draft produced four high school picks among the first eight, including the top two selections, Kwame Brown of Washington and Tyson Chandler, taken by the Los Angeles Clippers and dealt on draft day to the Chicago Bulls.

Last year, LeBron James exceeded all the hype he received as the NBA's first choice. Travis Outlaw, Ndudi Ebi and Kendrick Perkins also were first-round high school picks last season, but didn't conjure up comparisons to LeBron James or even Detroit guard Mike James.

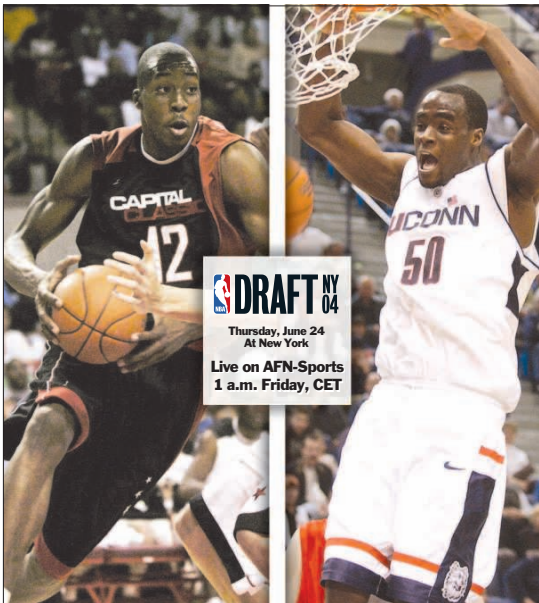
That's why NBA teams will be gambling when they select high school players. And make no mistake, the names of high school players will be called frequently in Thursday's draft, to be held in New York.

"This year, there could be at least six high school first-rounders and maybe more," said Marty Blake, the NBA's director of scouting services, who has been evaluating players for more than six decades.

Despite the mass exodus from high school, many of the players in the Class of 2004 aren't expected to be immediately ready for the NBA.

"It's a pretty good high school group, especially when looking at potential upside, but with high school players you just never know," said Tony Dorsey, the 7ers' assistant general manager and senior vice president. "There is nobody like LeBron who will step in and be a major impact."

There isn't a player in the high school class who doesn't carry some form of basketball wart.



Atlanta prep star Dwight Howard, left, and UConn's Emeka Okafor are the expected top picks in the NBA Draft.

The acknowledged No. 1 player is Dwight Howard, an athletic forward from Atlanta. Howard lost two inches recently, but not much in stature.

Two weeks ago in Chicago, during the NBA pre-draft camp, he was measured at 6-foot-9 in his bare feet after being listed at 6-11 by most publications. He has the potential to be a perennial NBA all-star.

This spring, during the week of practice for the McDonald's all-American game in Oklahoma City, Howard seemed to struggle with his stamina at times and with developing any post moves.

Since school ended on May 28, he has been awakening at 4 a.m. for workouts.

"I know in the NBA I have to

get my body used to getting up early, going to practice, so I wanted to get used to it now," Howard said at the Chicago camp.

The other likely high school first-rounders are Shaun Livingston, a 6-6½ point guard from Peoria, Ill.; J.R. Smith, a 6-5½ shooting guard from Newark, N.J.; Josh Smith, a 6-7 small forward from Powder Springs, Ga., who played for the renowned Oak Hill Academy in Virginia; Al Jefferson, a 6-8 power forward from Prentiss, Miss.; Robert Swift, a 7-foot center from Bakersfield, Calif.; and Sebastian Telfair, the celebrated 5-11 point guard from Brooklyn, N.Y.

All seven could be among the top 20 picks.

SEE DRAFT ON PAGE 32

College grad Okafor could contribute immediately

BY MARC NARDUCCI
The Philadelphia Inquirer

CHICAGO — Emeka Okafor is tired of the questions, but that doesn't mean they are about to cease.

Since helping the University of Connecticut to the NCAA basketball title and being named the outstanding player in the Final Four, Okafor has been poked, prodded and polled about his creaky back.

The back caused him to miss three games and play several others in serious discomfort last season. Now he says the biggest pain comes in the form of the persistent questions about it.

"I should put out a questions sheet: 'The back is doing OK,'" Okafor said after the NBA's pre-draft camp this month. "I've been working out for a while, and there is no pain."

Okafor is projected to be the top pick in the draft, but while he says his physical condition isn't a concern, his back has raised a red flag for NBA teams.

"For a player like that, who has had problems, it is definitely a concern," one Eastern Conference executive said. "I think you have to look at his situation very closely."

If healthy, Okafor would seem to be the class of the college crop, and he is likely to be taken by the Orlando Magic with the No. 1 pick.

Measured by the NBA at 6 feet, 8½ inches, he could become one of the league's elite power forwards. But will he be able to flourish in offense in the pros? Like his back, that's not exactly a favorite topic of conversation for him.

"I averaged 21 [points] and 10 [rebounds], and I don't know what more I could have done," Okafor said of his performance in UConn's Final Four victories over Duke and Georgia Tech. "Maybe average 30 points per game?"

For his junior season as a whole, he averaged 17.6 points and 11.5 rebounds. He finished his three-year college career with 441 blocked shots — the seventh-highest total in NCAA history.

SEE OKAFOR ON PAGE 32

NBA DRAFT ORDER

1. Orlando
2. Charlotte (from L.A. Clippers)
3. Chicago
4. L.A. Clippers (from Charlotte)
5. Washington
6. Atlanta
7. Phoenix
8. Toronto
9. Philadelphia
10. Cleveland
11. Golden State
12. Seattle
13. Portland
14. Utah
15. Boston
16. Utah (from New York through Phoenix)
17. Atlanta (from Milwaukee through Denver and Detroit)
18. New Orleans
19. Miami
20. Denver (from Houston)
21. New Jersey
22. New York
23. Portland (from Memphis)
24. Boston (from Dallas)
25. Boston (from Detroit)
26. Sacramento
27. L.A. Lakers
28. San Antonio
29. Indiana

Note: Minnesota's first-round pick has been forfeited

Weather suspends play again at Wimbledon Page 34

